

Creator/Supervisor

Masashi Kishimoto

Art by

Mikio Ikemoto

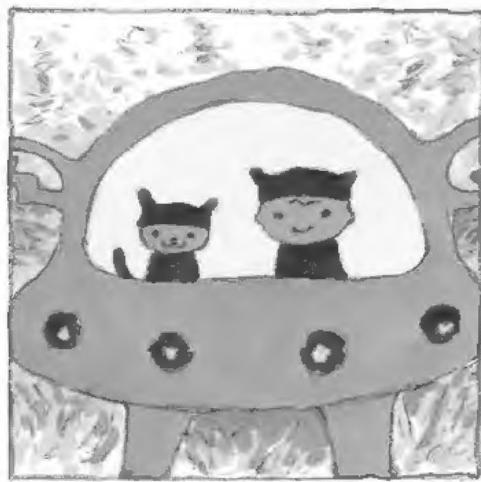
Script by

Ukyo Kodachi



BORUTO

-NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS-



池本幹雄

There is a work of art in Sumida Ward entitled *The Future Where Everything Is Possible*. It's apparently based on a drawing made by a grade school student, but my heart feels warm and fuzzy when I look at it. It's a spaceship with time machine capability and can travel underwater as well as in the sky. It can race across the ground and tunnel underground as well. If you and your pet put on the same hat, you can communicate with each other. How awesome! Especially the part about the hats. I can't wait for the future where everything is possible!

-Mikio Ikemoto, 2019



小太刀右京

From this volume on, I'm including some behind-the-scenes columns exhumed from storage. I'd been steadily cranking these out with Kishimoto Sensei from about just before the battle against Kaguya in *Naruto*, and they were created with the launch of the *Boruto* film and TV anime in mind.

I would be grateful if you'd use them as world guides to enjoy the series. If they could serve as a means to give *Boruto* and his friends' everyday life more than a passing thought!

-Ukyo Kodachi, 2019

BORUTO

-NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS-

VOLUME 9

SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

Creator/Supervisor MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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by Masashi Kishimoto, Mikio Ikemoto, Ukyo Kodachi

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
BORUTO is rated T for Teen and is
recommended for ages 13 and up.
This volume contains fantasy violence.

BORUTO

-NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS-

Creator/Supervisor

Masashi Kishimoto

Art by

Mikio Ikemoto

Script by

Ukyo Kodachi



VOLUME 9

Up to You

**STORY**

The Great Ninja War that shook the world and shed much blood is now history. Naruto has become the Seventh Hokage, and the people of Konohagakure Village are enjoying peace. Yet Naruto's son Uzumaki Boruto has a grim life, perhaps due to his father's too-great influence.

Rebelling against Naruto while simultaneously craving his praise, Boruto decides to enter the Chunin Exam along with his teammates Sarada and Mitsuki. However, Boruto ends up secretly using a prohibited Scientific Ninja Tool and is stripped of his shinobi status by his father.

Just then, members of the Ohtsutsuki Clan attack the arena! Boruto faces off against them alongside Naruto, Sasuke, and others, and they achieve victory with a Rasengan that father and son weave together. However, a strange mark appears on Boruto's right palm...

Afterward, Boruto happens upon a young man named Kawaki who bears the same Karma as himself. And it is he who is proven to be what Kara has been calling the Vessel.

In order to place Kawaki under his protection, Naruto moves him into his own home. Though Kawaki clashes with Boruto, his heart also starts to heal. However, Kara member Delta shows up and a fierce battle with Naruto ensues...



BORUTO

-NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS-

VOLUME 9
UP TO YOU

CONTENTS

■■■	Number 32: Owed Debts	7
■■■	Number 33: Exceeding the Limits!!	49
■■■	Number 34: Training!!	91
■■■	Number 35: Up to You	131

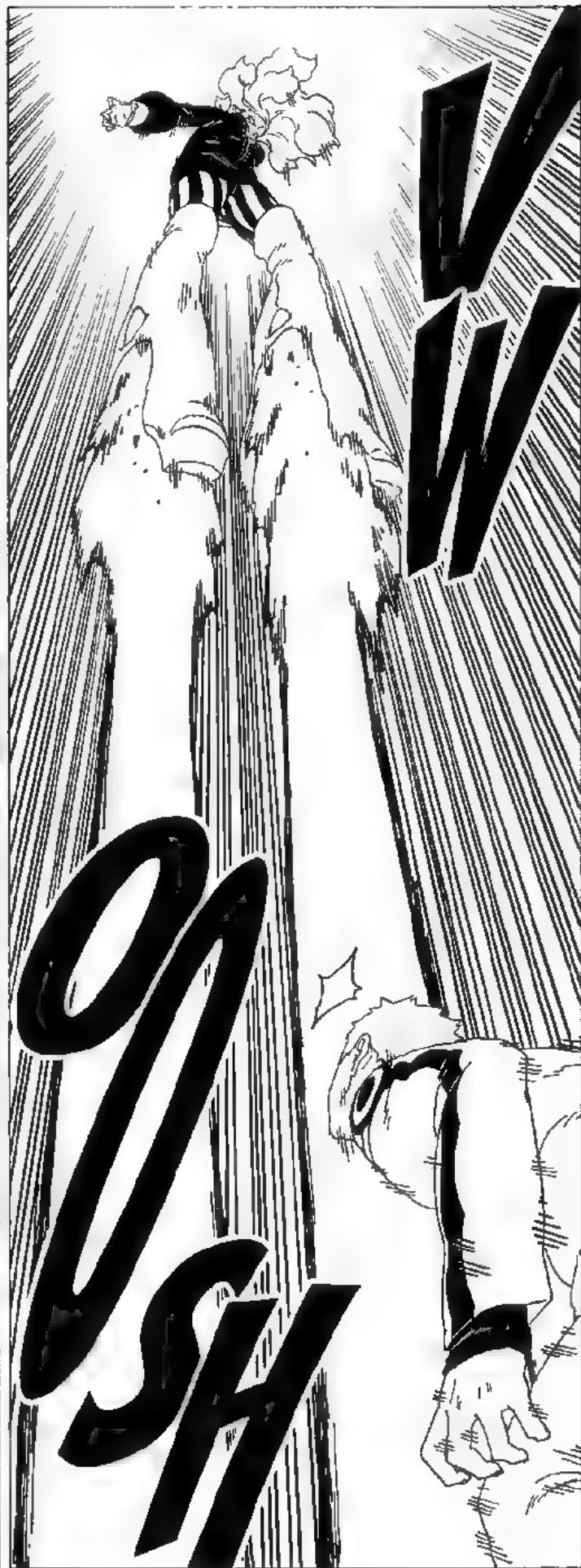


|||| Number 32: Owed Debts

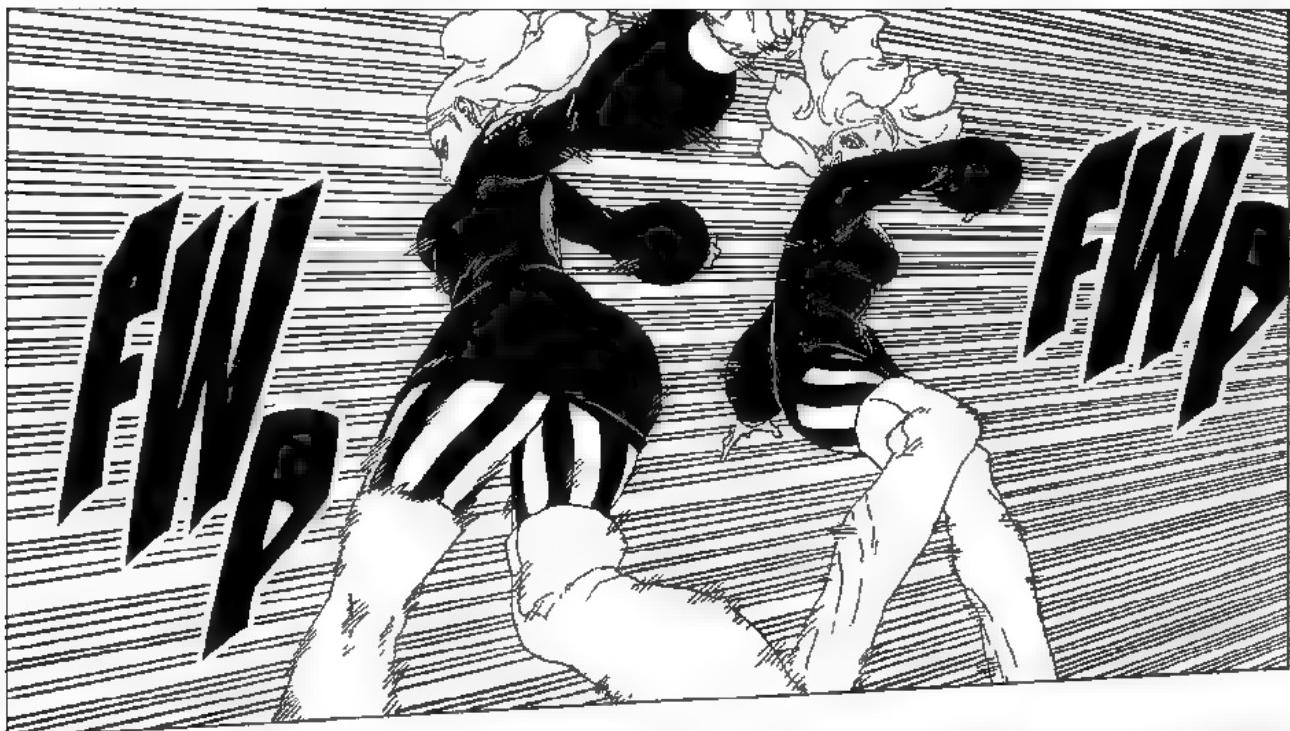


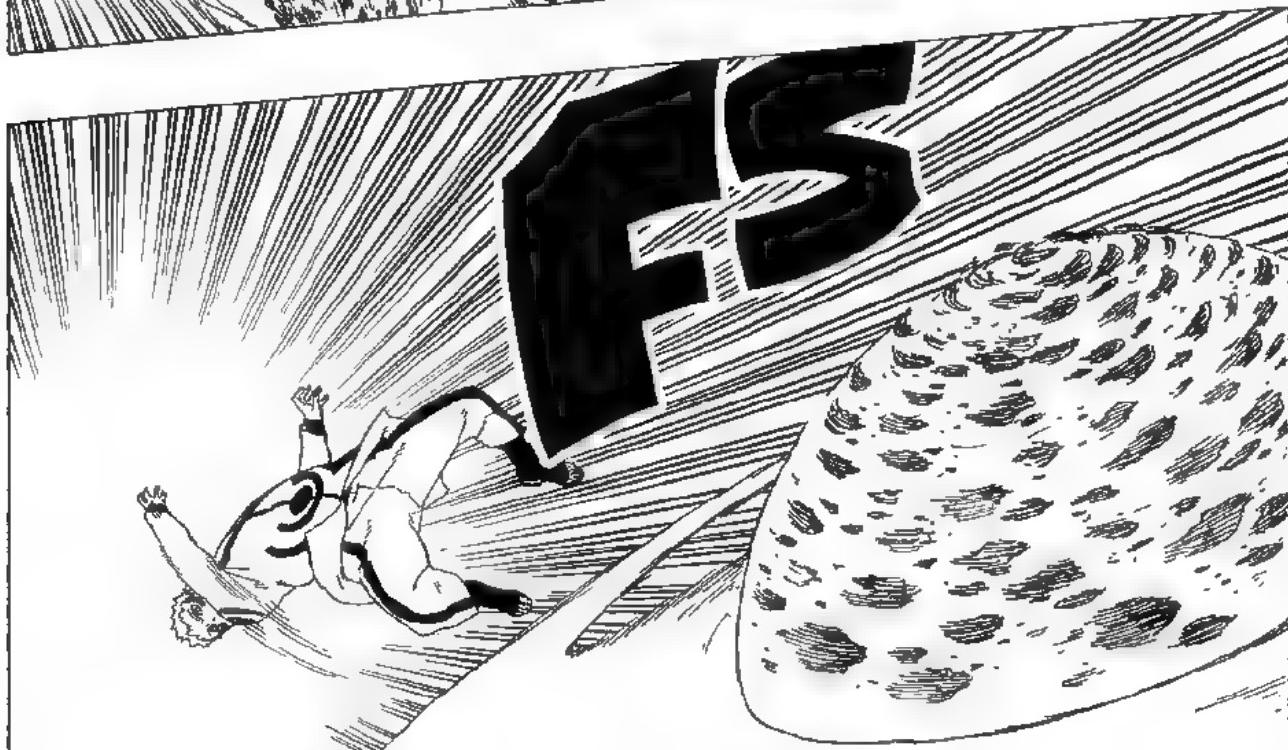






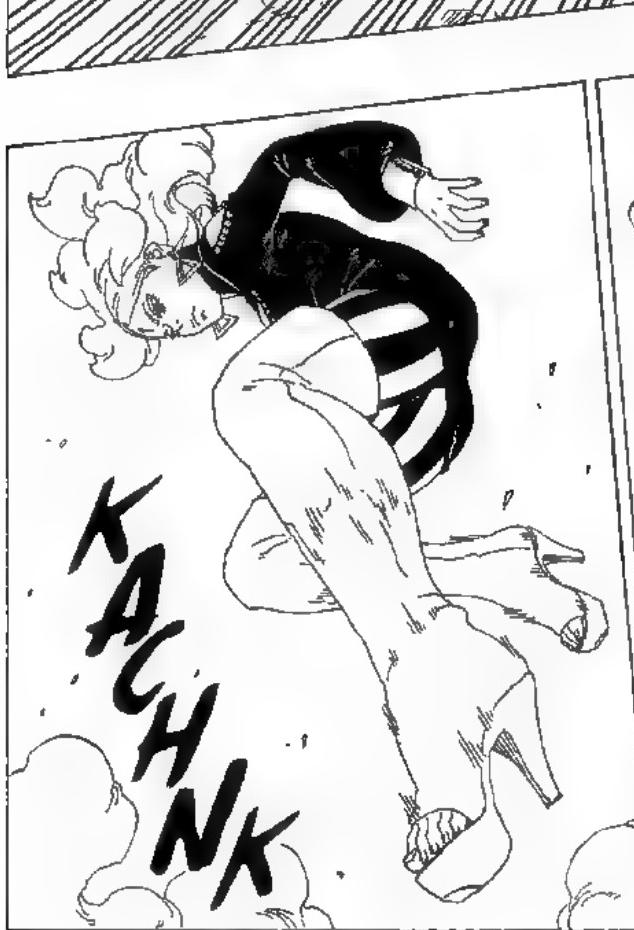


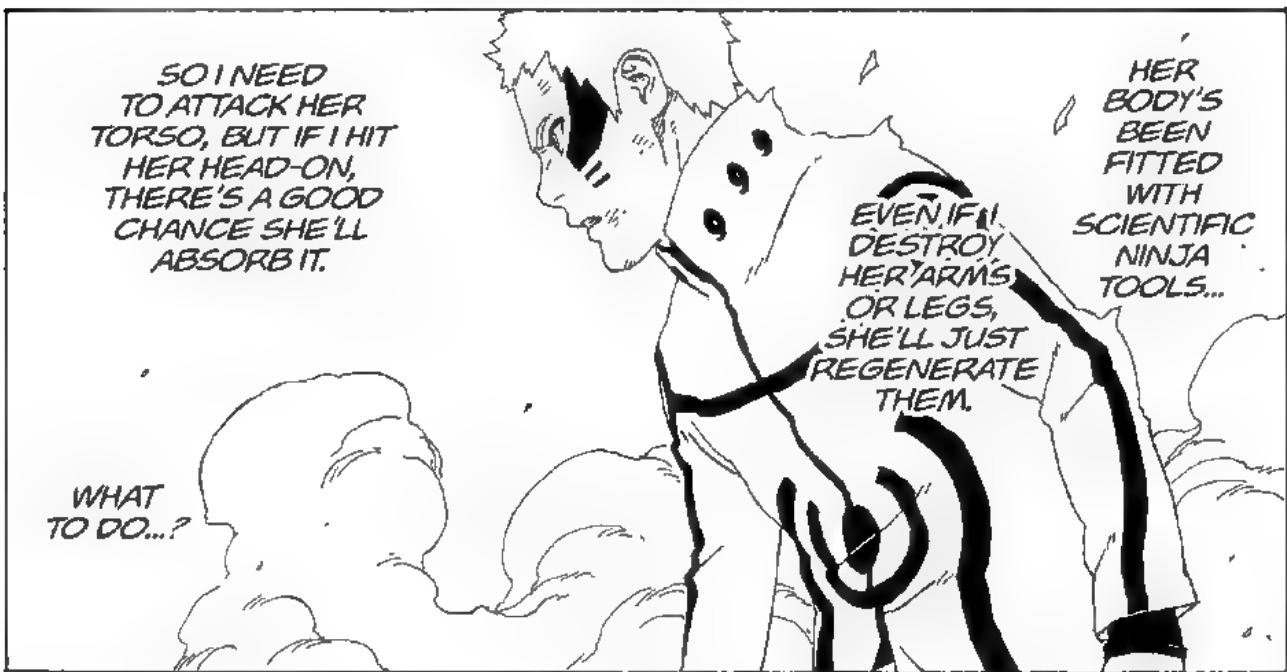
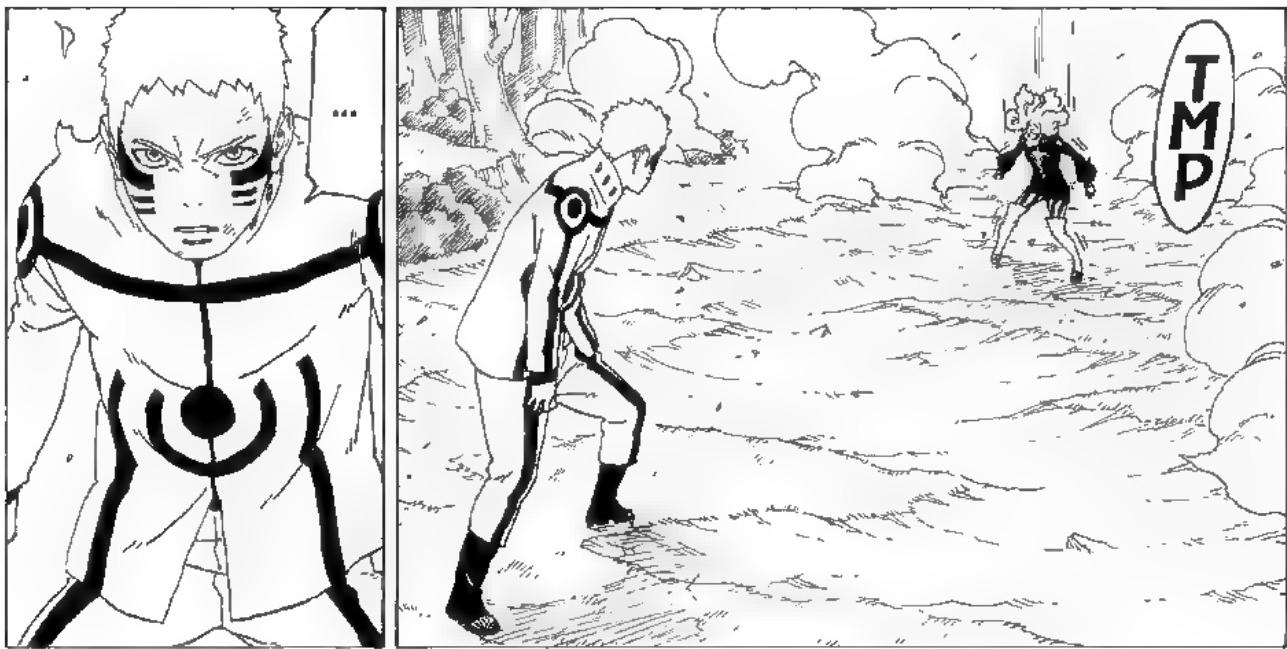


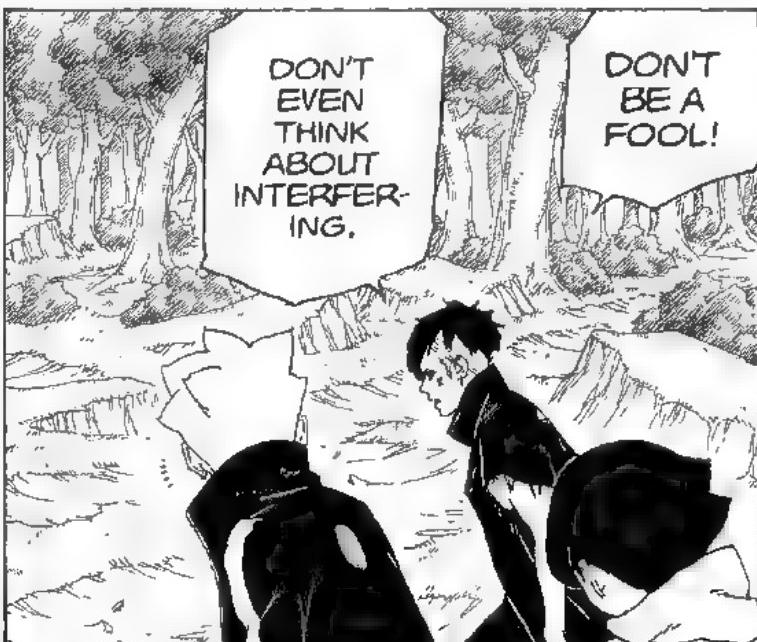
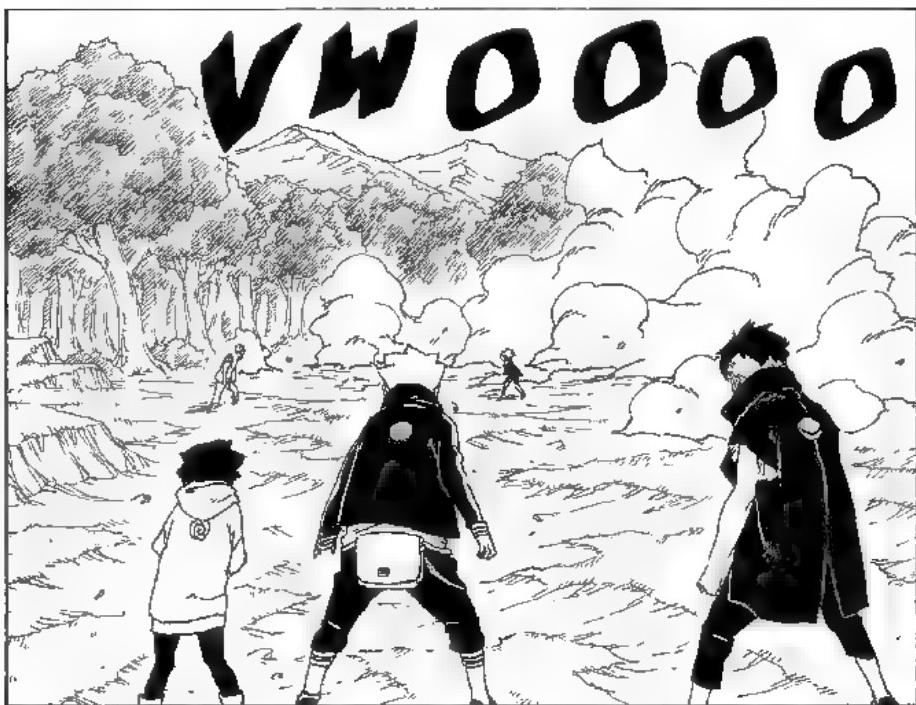


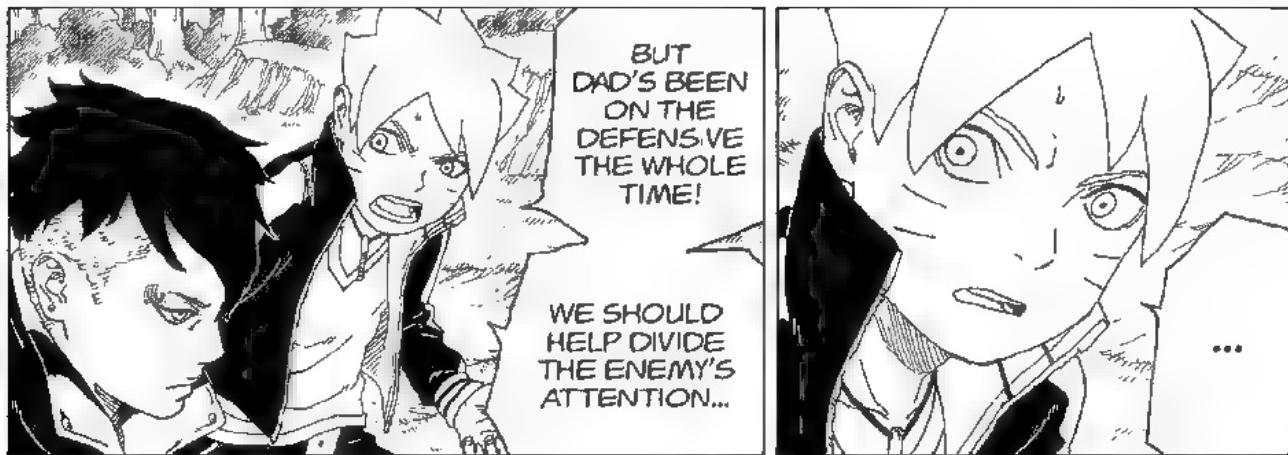
**YOTON
LAVA STYLE!!
RASEN
SHURIKEN!!!**

OSH!

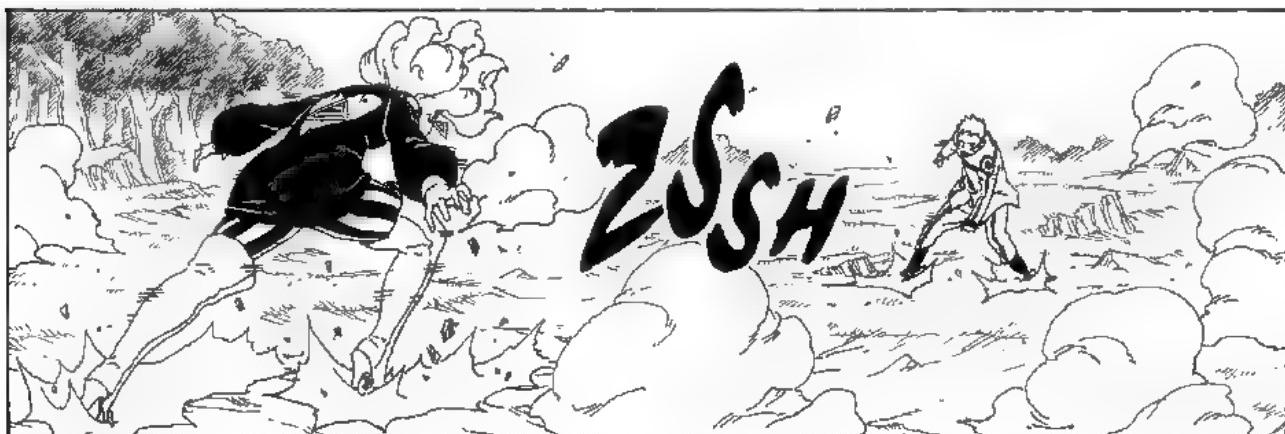


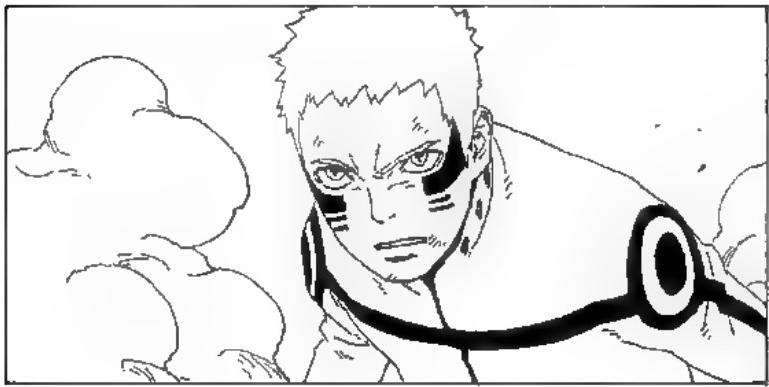






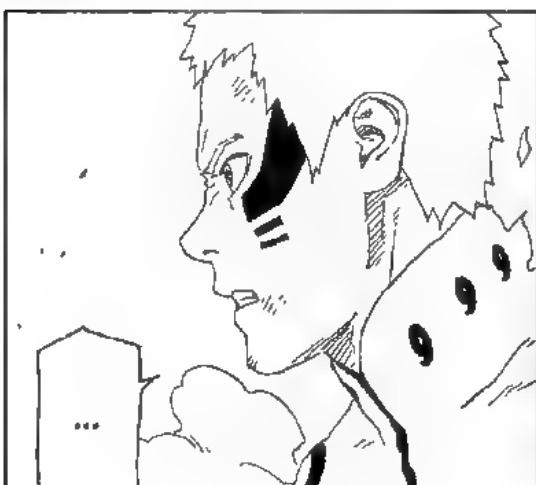


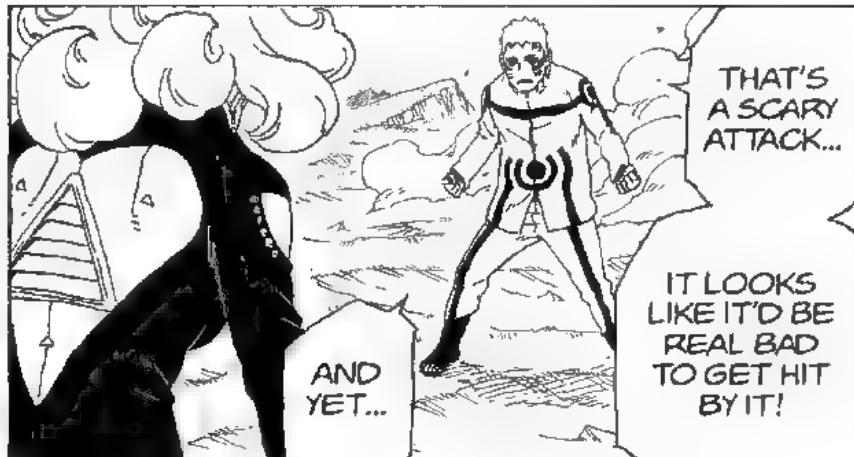




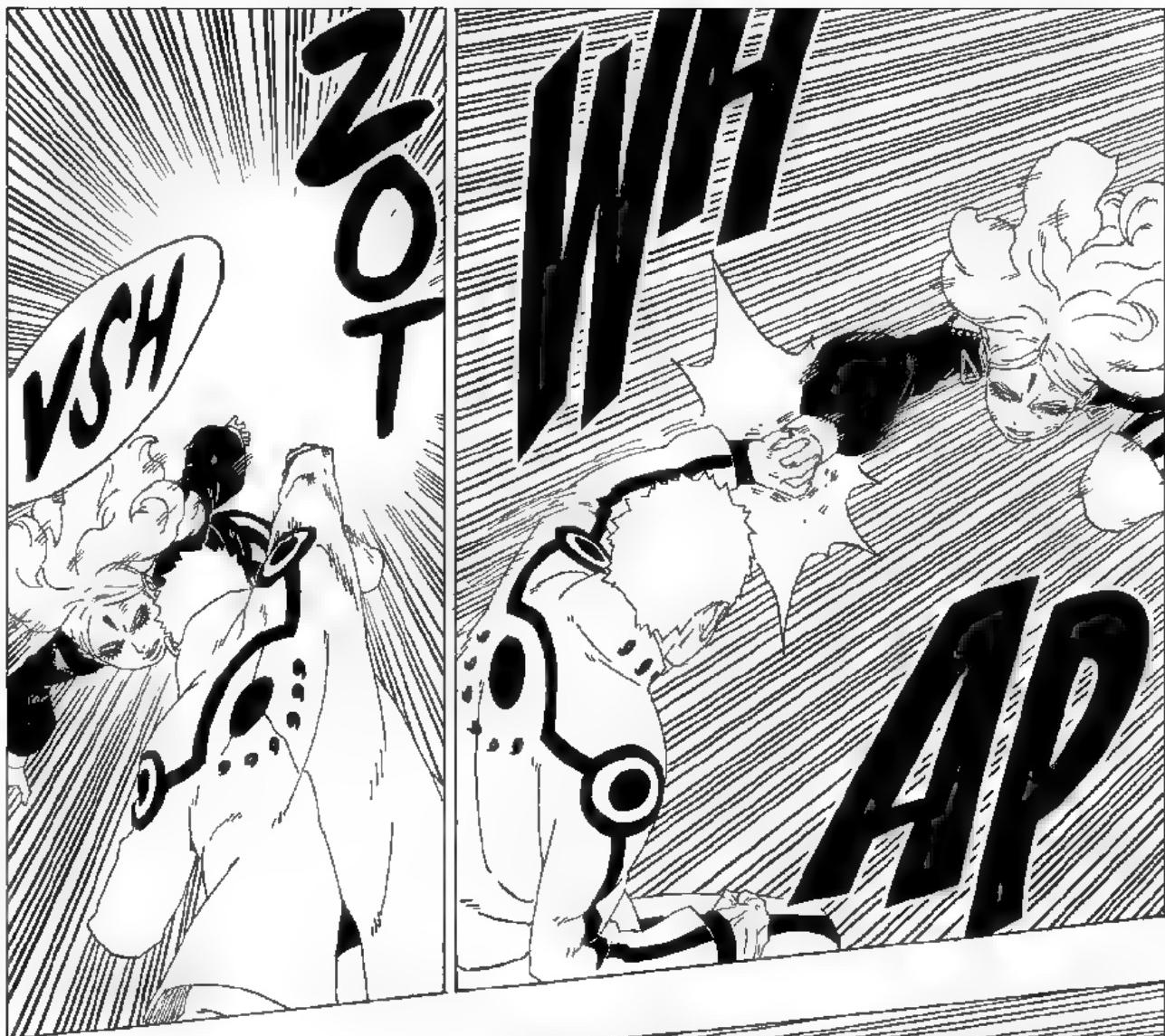






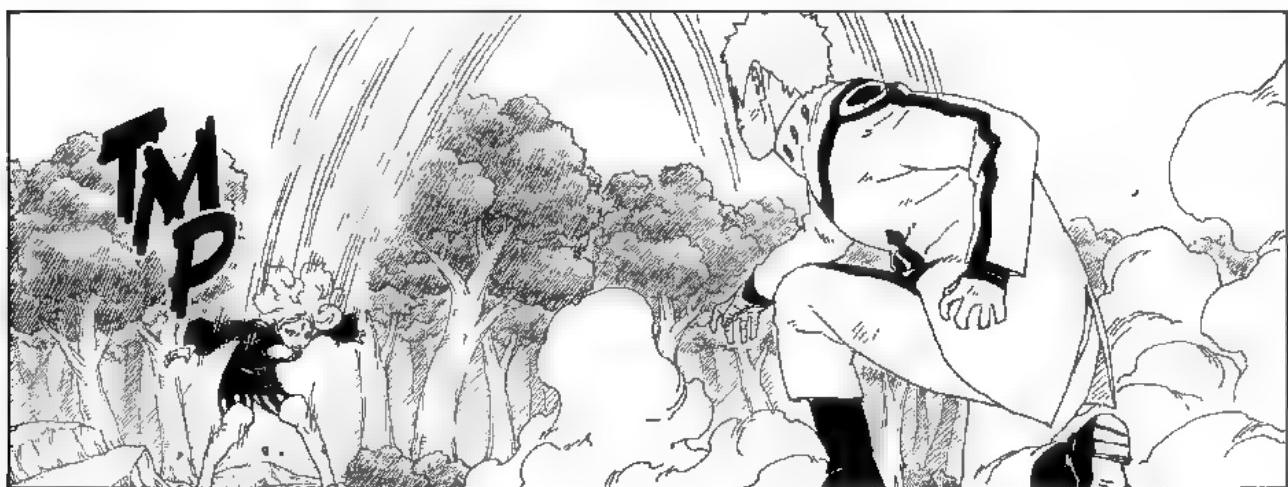
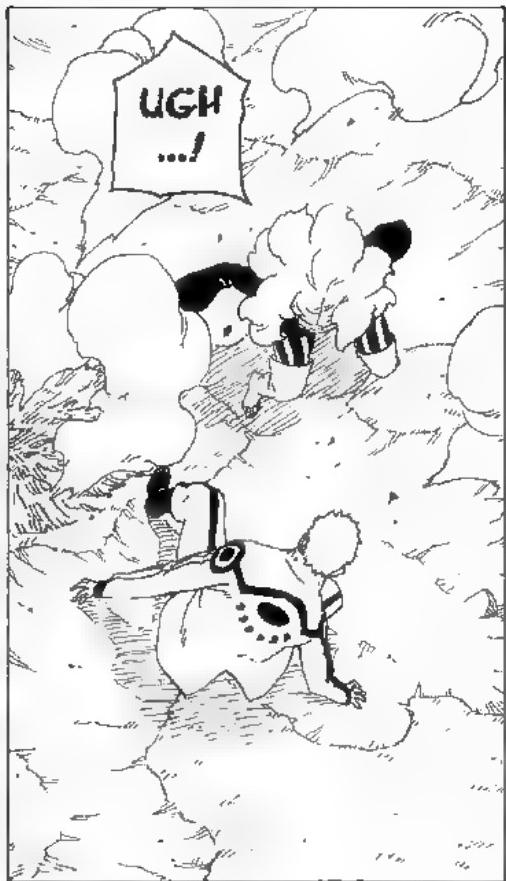












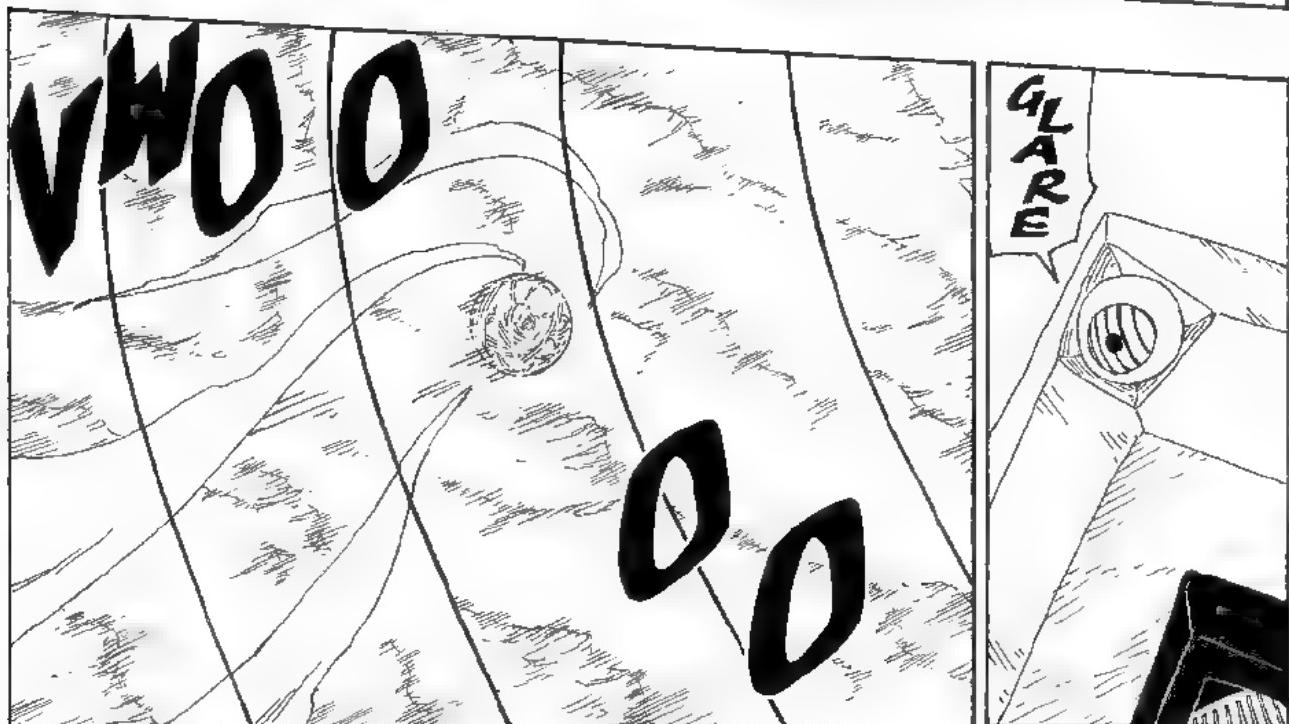








BORUTO!!









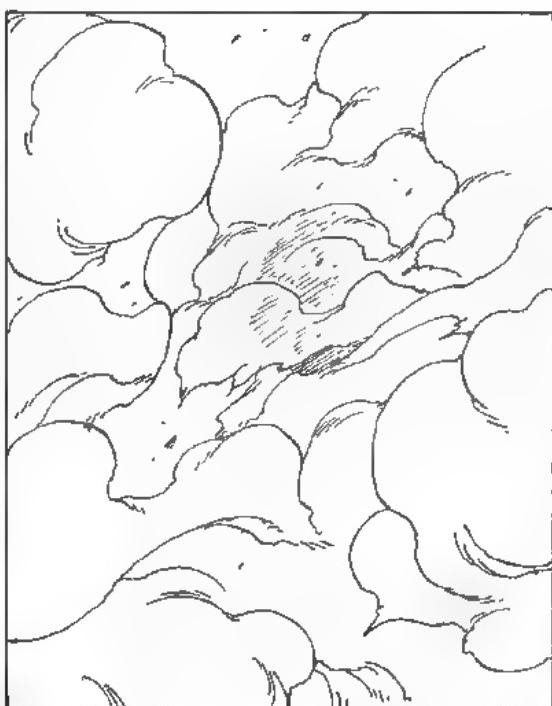




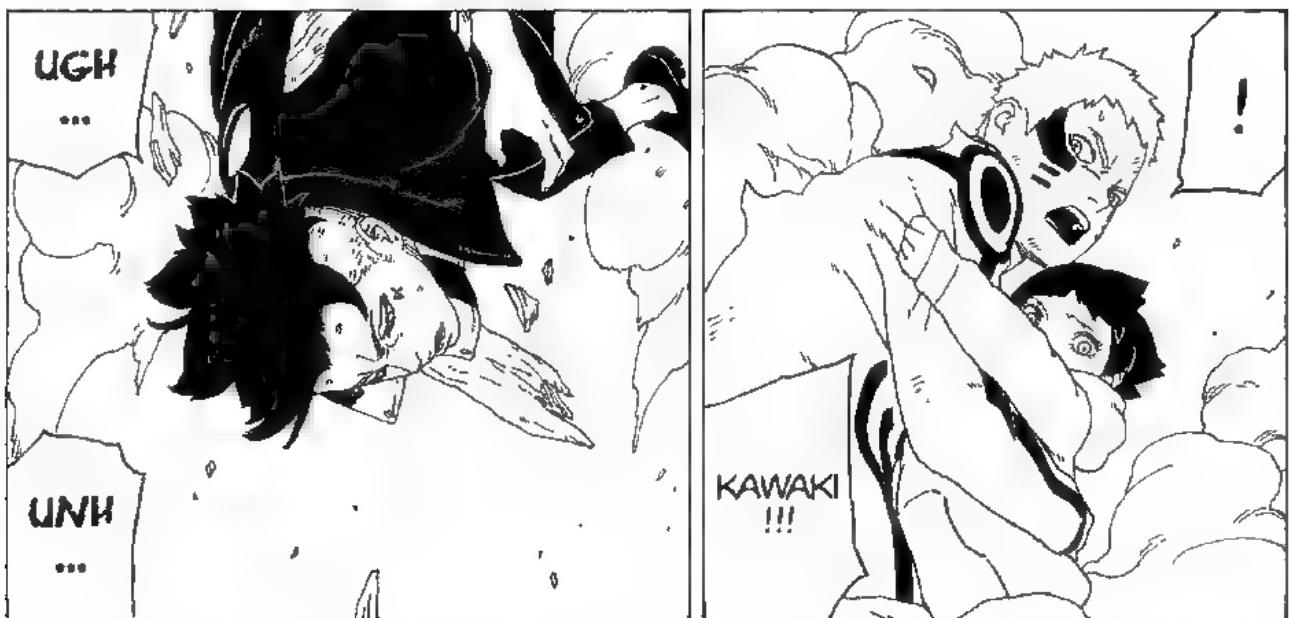
...THAT
MY
BEAMS
WILL HIT,
HMM?

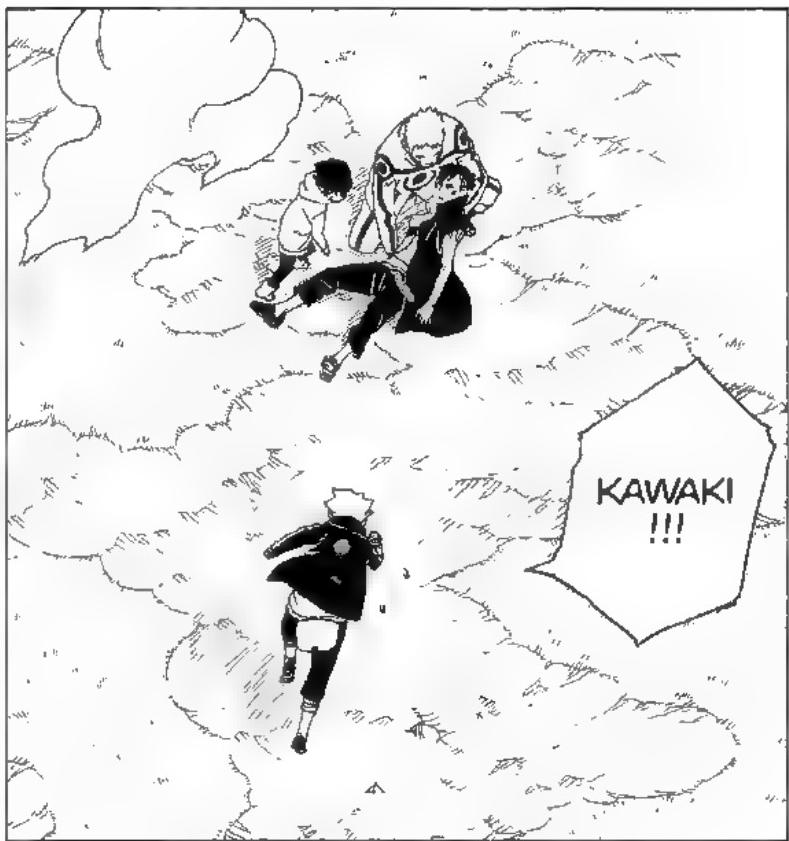


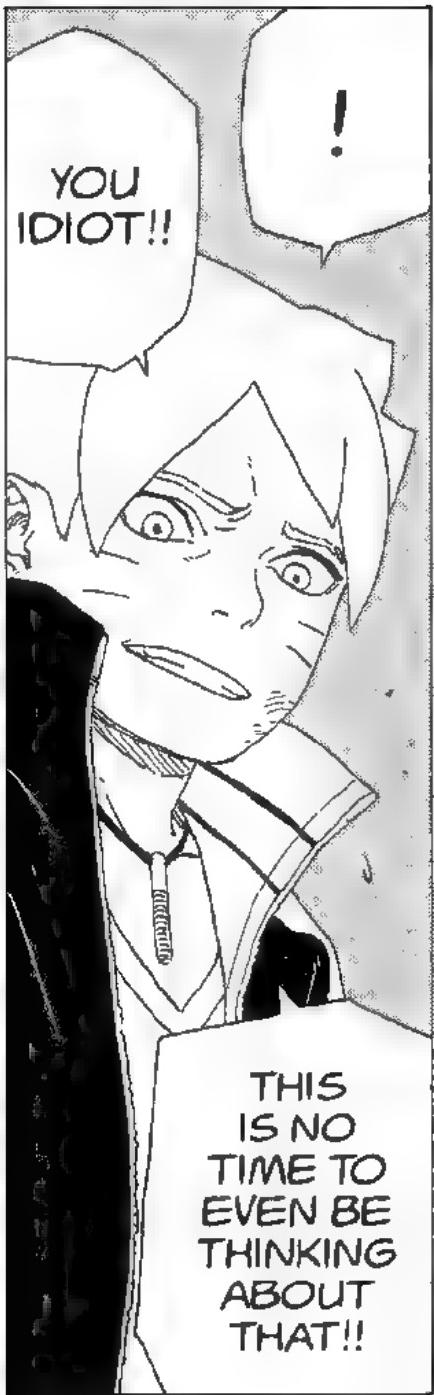












THIS
IS NO
TIME TO
EVEN BE
THINKING
ABOUT
THAT!!

...
BORUTO!



Shinobi Hiden Column 1: Shinobi Society

Shinobi are intrinsically social entities. From the time that the Sage of Six Paths established Ninshu, the Shinobi Creed, and positioned those with aptitude for chakra as shinobi, they became the social entity known as ninja, not merely people who employ unusual powers. The same applies to rogue ninja. Rogue ninja are still shinobi, and whether they left their villages amicably or as fugitives, they are members of shinobi society nonetheless, just with "rogue" added to their status. There are various reasons why superhuman shinobi must mold society, but it fundamentally boils down to money. It might feel like we are discussing a somewhat disgraceful topic, but shinobi are a group of realists. Pride means nothing if one does not live to see the next day. That is the main difference between them and samurai, who faded away into legend. So why is money needed? This is because aside from a few extremely rare exceptions, superhuman shinobi abilities are unnecessary to daily life. Shadow doppelgangers can rival a whole army, and Fire Style jutsu are superior to bows and blades, indeed. However, will either put clothes on one's back? Put food on the table? Or put a roof over one's children's heads? Nay.

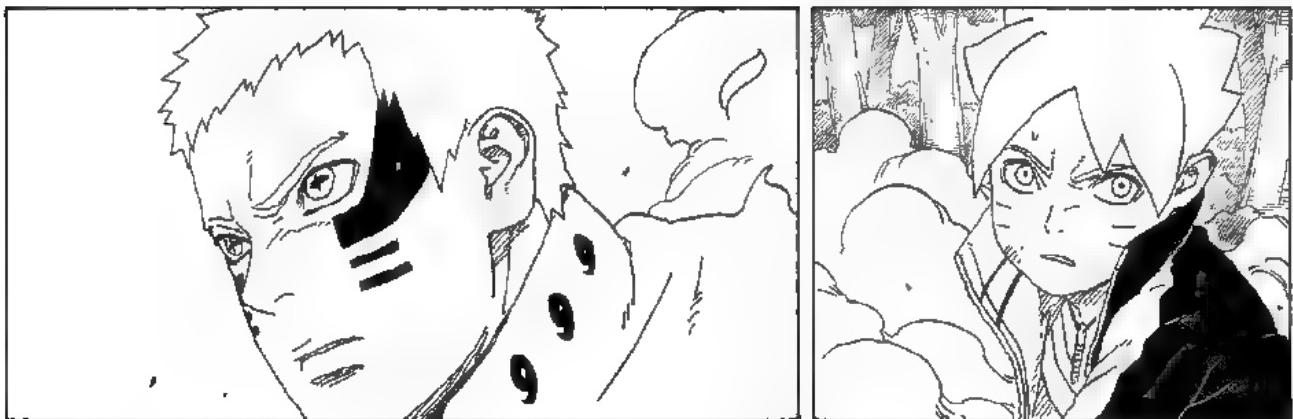
Shinobi skills intrinsically do not lie in manufacturing. Thus, shinobi need connections with common folk in order to maintain their own existence. In fact, the old Village of Konoha, which was impoverished and merely depleted their child soldiers, demonstrated something too appalling to call superhuman livelihood. It is commonly said that it takes 100 people to feed one human who specializes just in fighting. In short, only with a nation that has a population of one million can you support 10,000 shinobi. Deeply aware that they are a group possessing unusual powers, shinobi elected to position themselves within mainstream society. The reason why they did not choose to be the rulers is because they understood that if they had, they would have been rejected by an overwhelming majority of people and been unable to survive. By grabbing the niche within society of "professionals hired using money," shinobi safeguarded their existence.

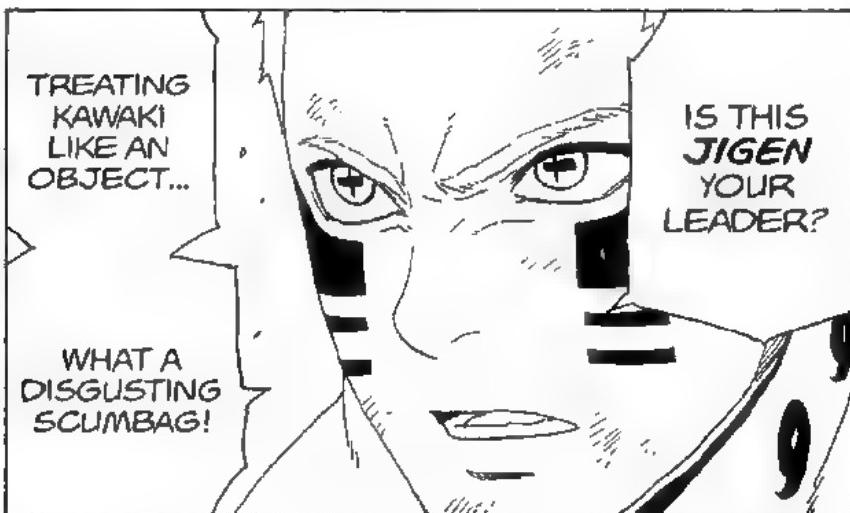


Number 33: Exceeding the Limits!!

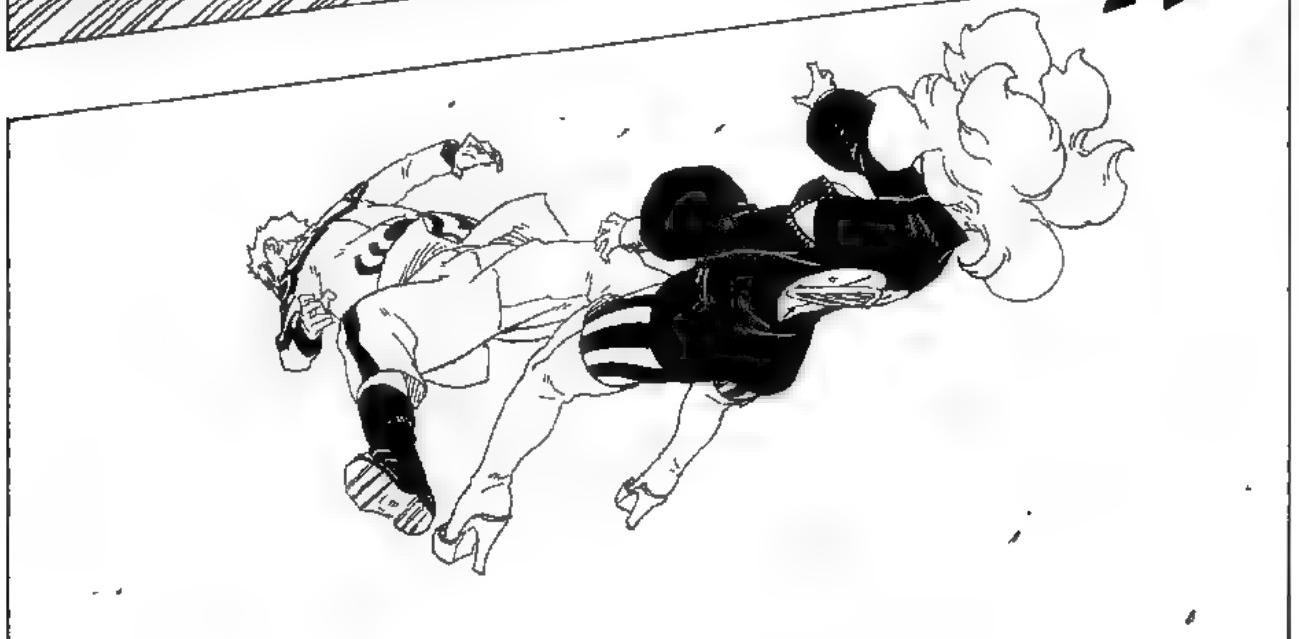
VWOOOO







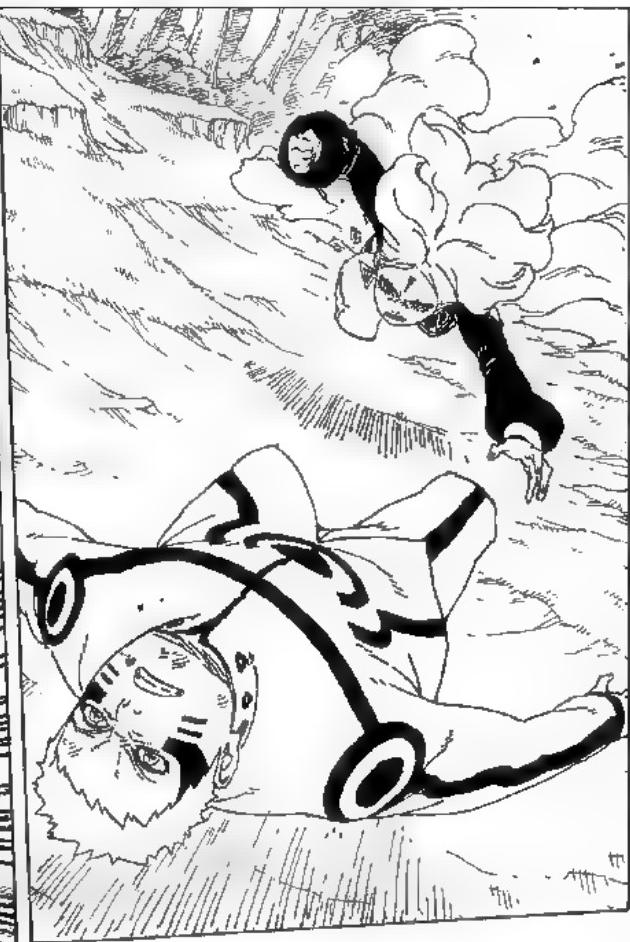




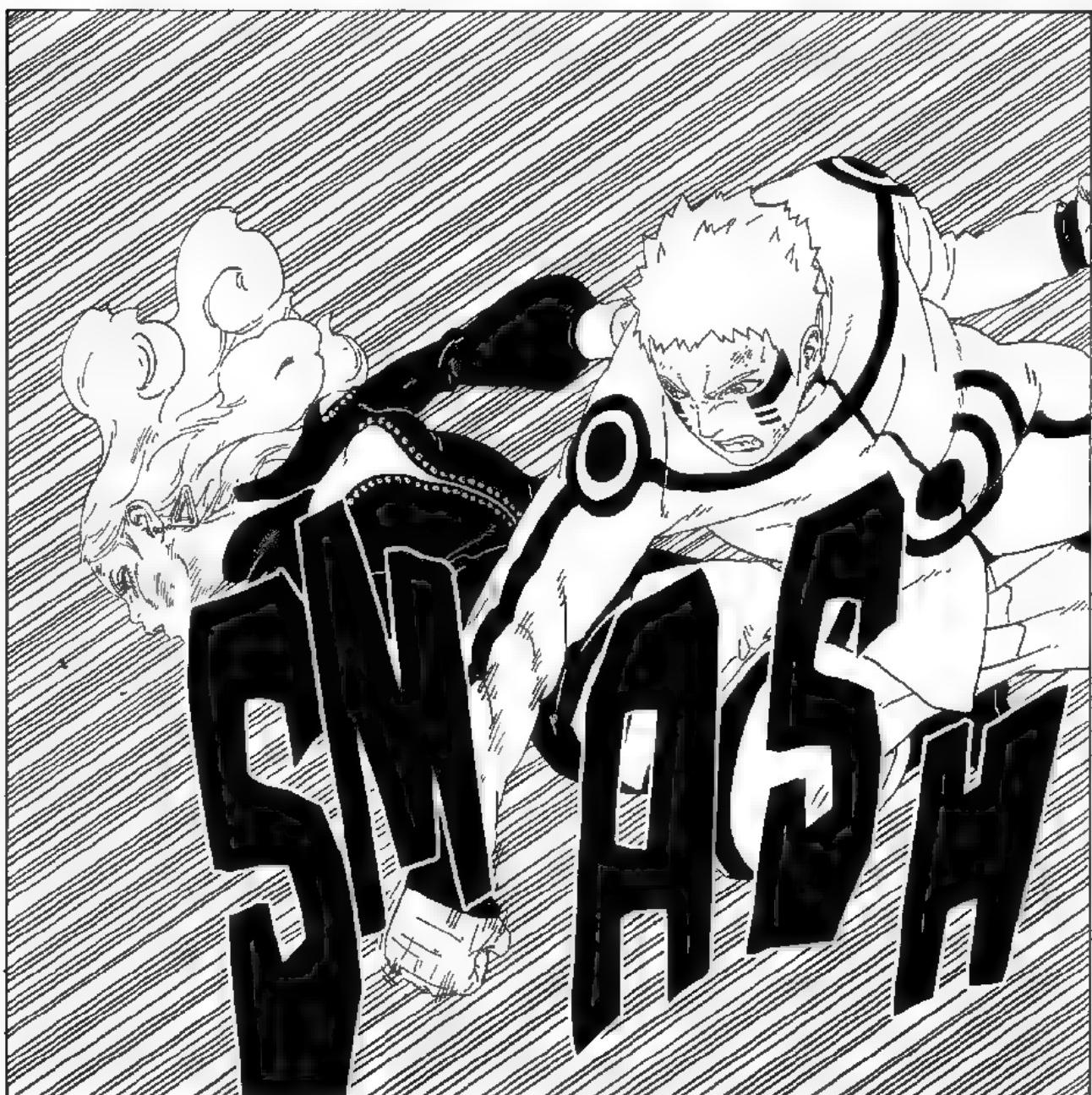


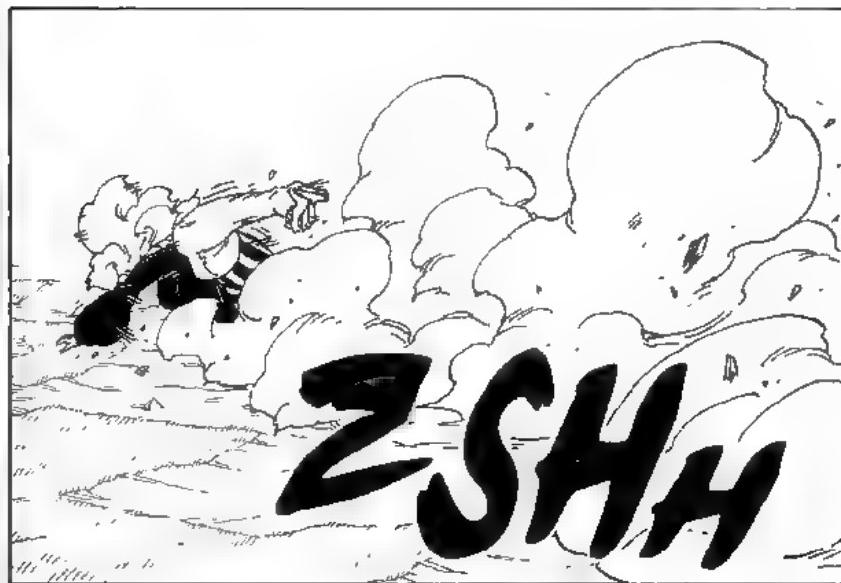
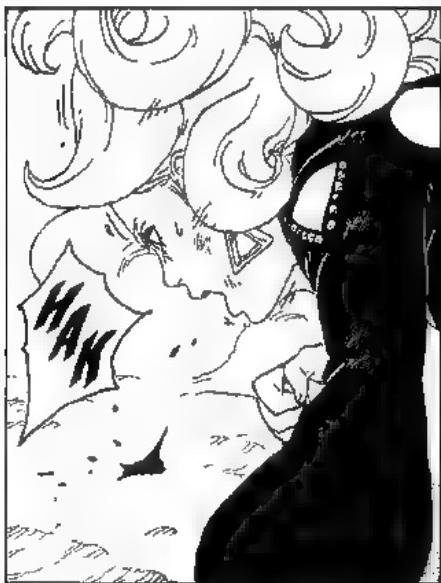








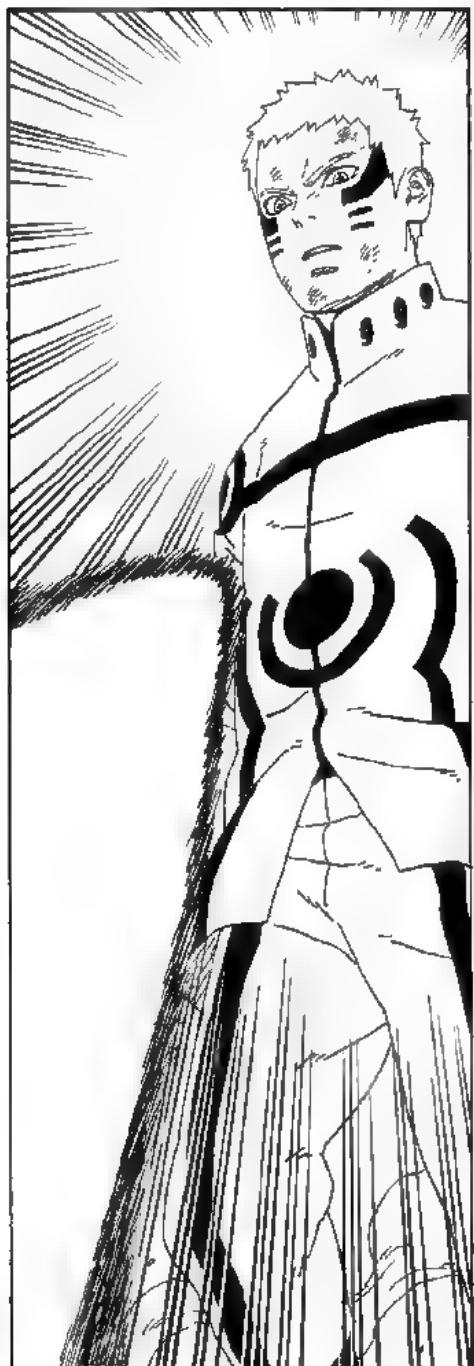
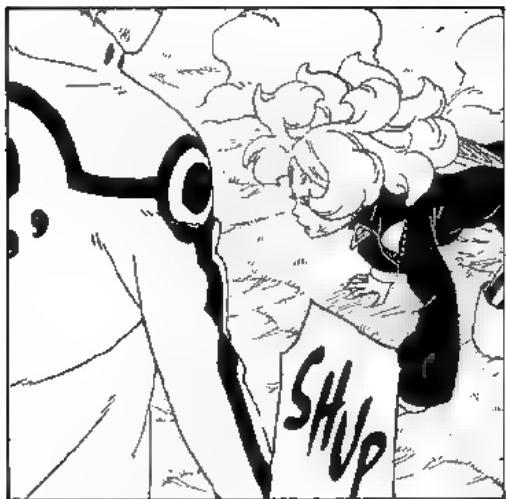




IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S STARTING TO GET TIRED...

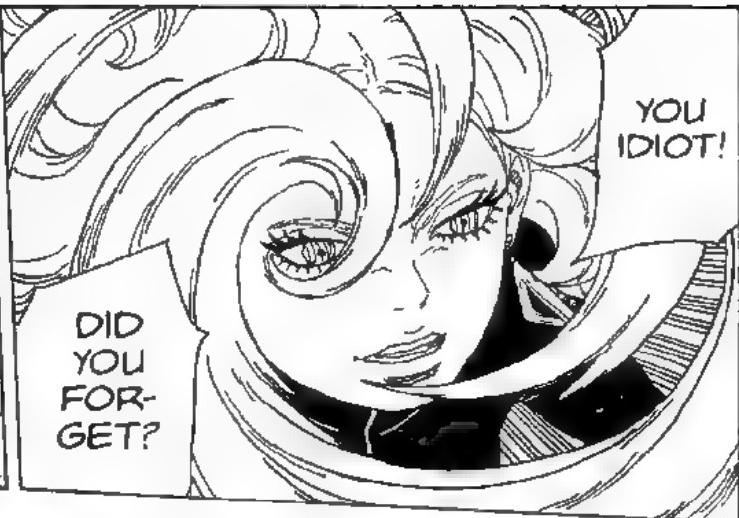








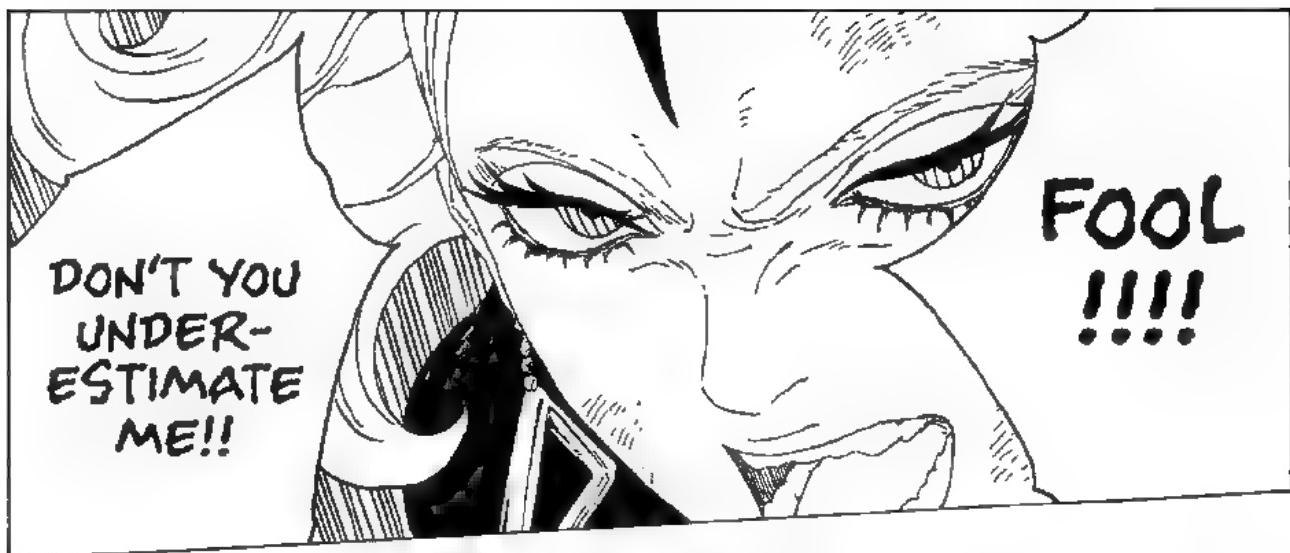






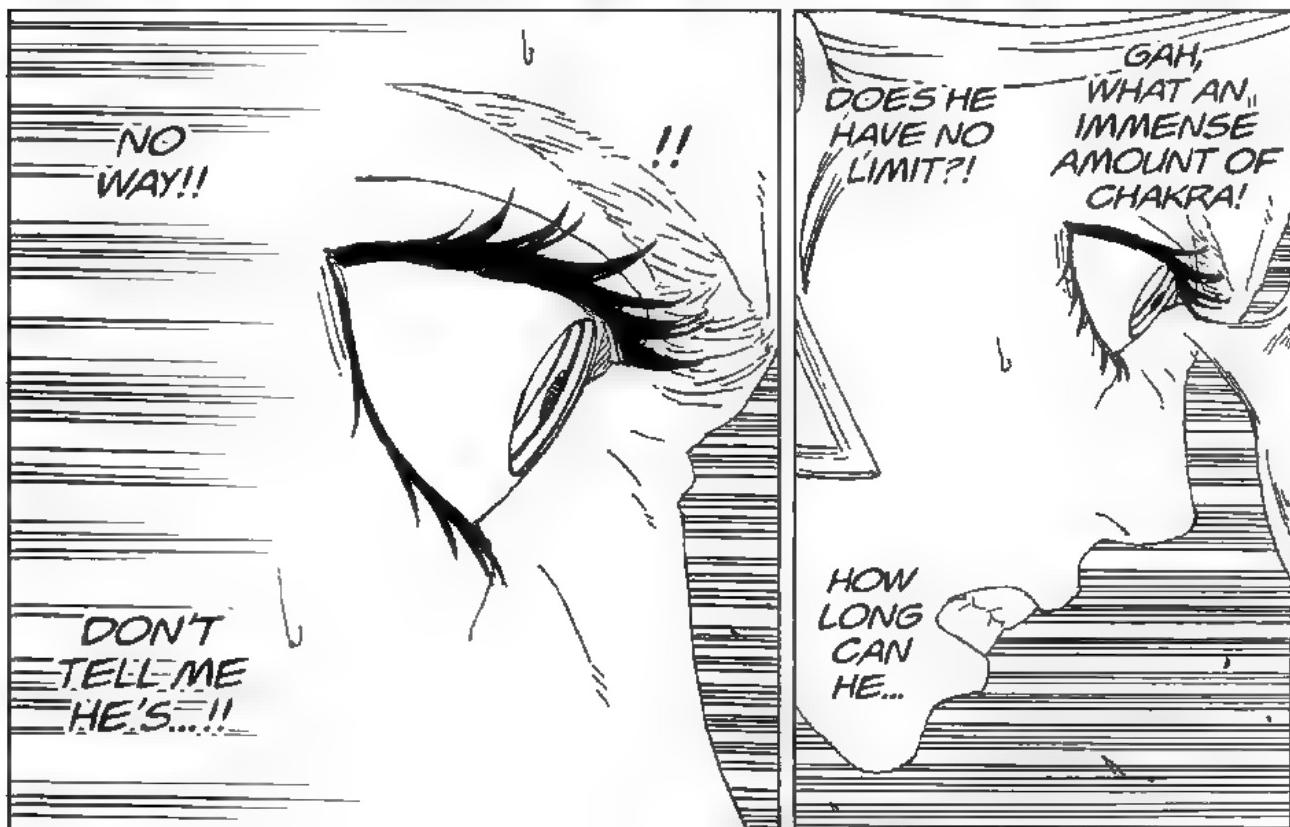
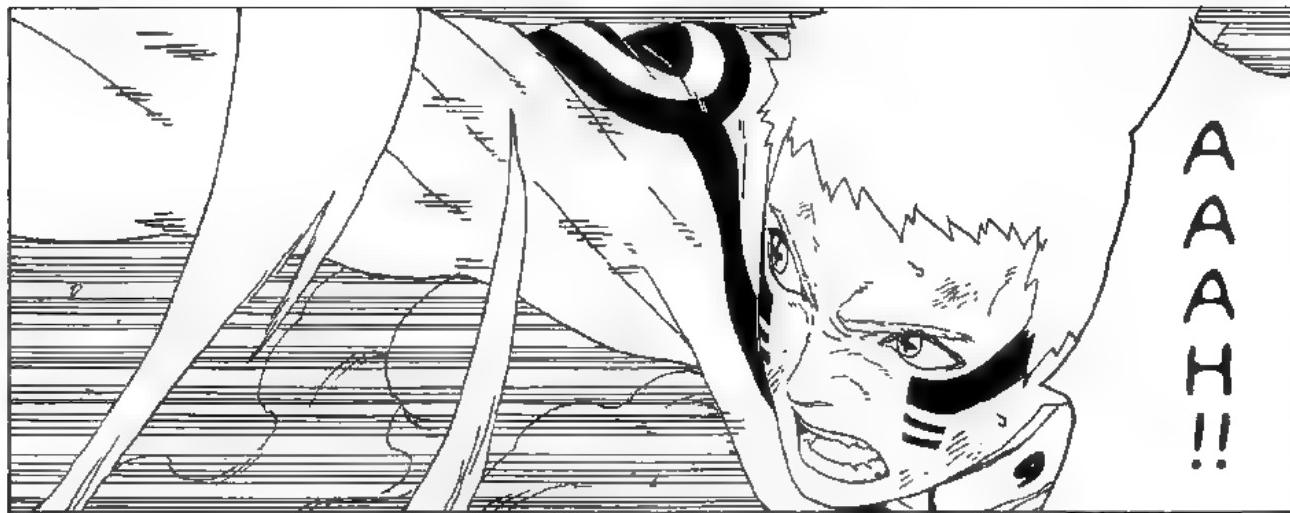








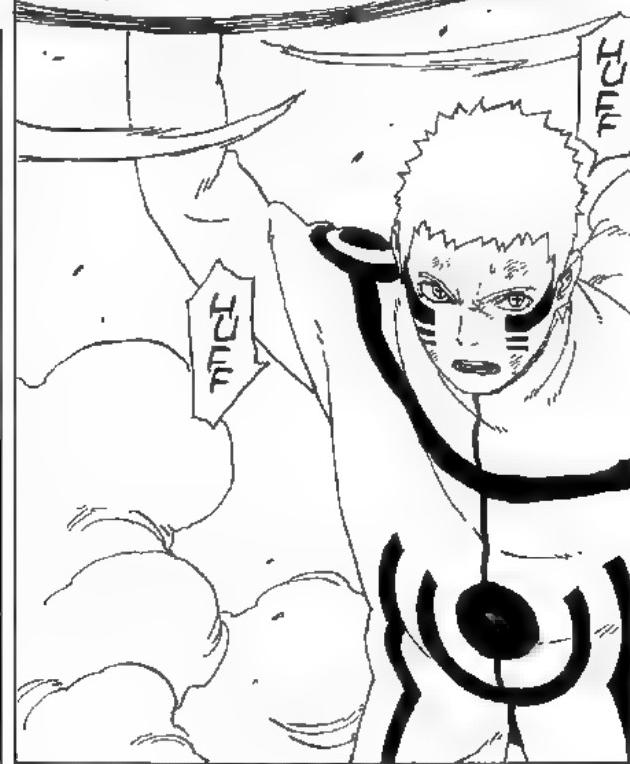
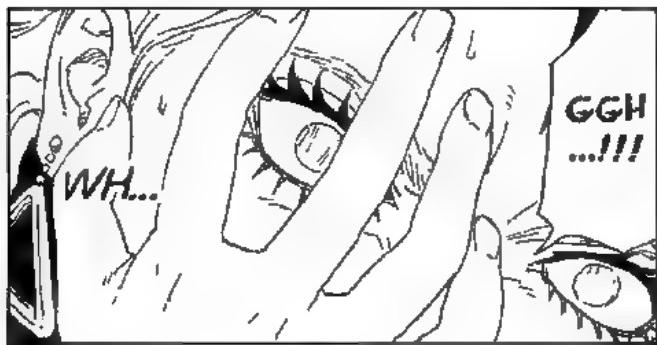


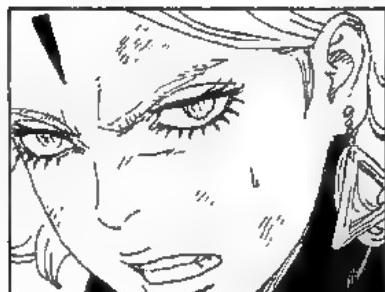
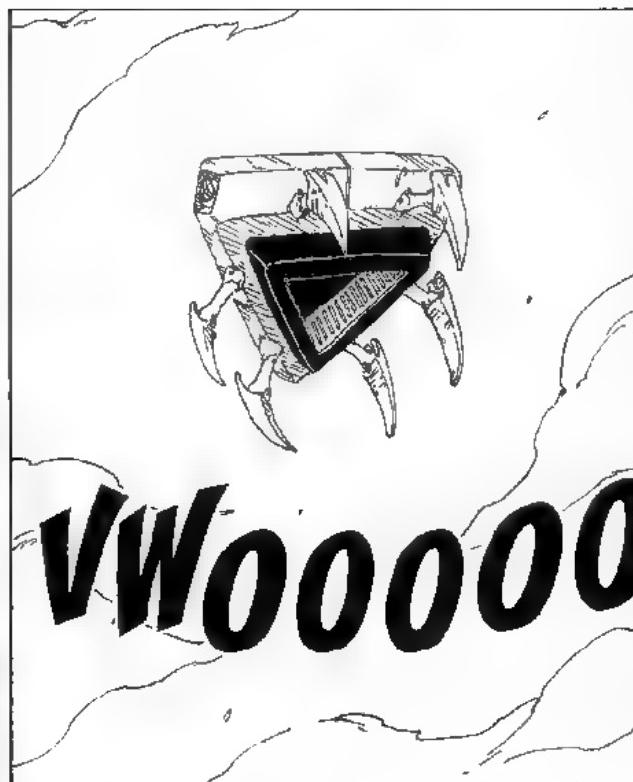












AND UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, I'VE GOT WAY MORE CHAKRA THAN AVERAGE.

...THAT ANY JUTSU OR CHAKRA YOU ABSORB DOESN'T JUST DISSIPATE AND VANISH... IT GETS STORED SOMEWHERE INSIDE YOUR BODY.

WHICH MEANT...

MY RASENGAN THAT YOU ABSORBED EARLY ON, YOU FIRED IT BACK AS-IS.

THUS, THERE HAS TO BE SOME SORT OF VOLUME LIMIT!

DON'T
YOU DARE
LECTURE AT
ME WITH
THAT SMUG
LOOK...

C-U-Q

...

...ON
YOUR
FACE!!

B
O
O
M



**SUPER
SUPER
GIANT...**

...RASENGAN!!!

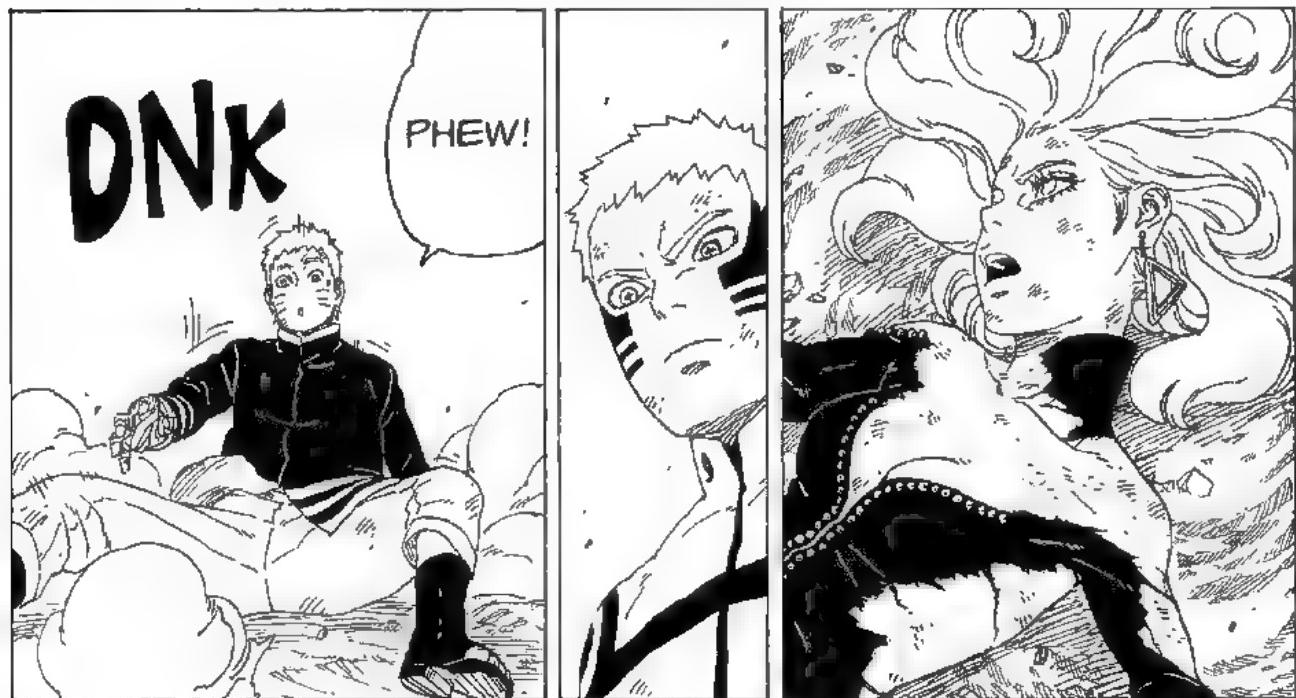
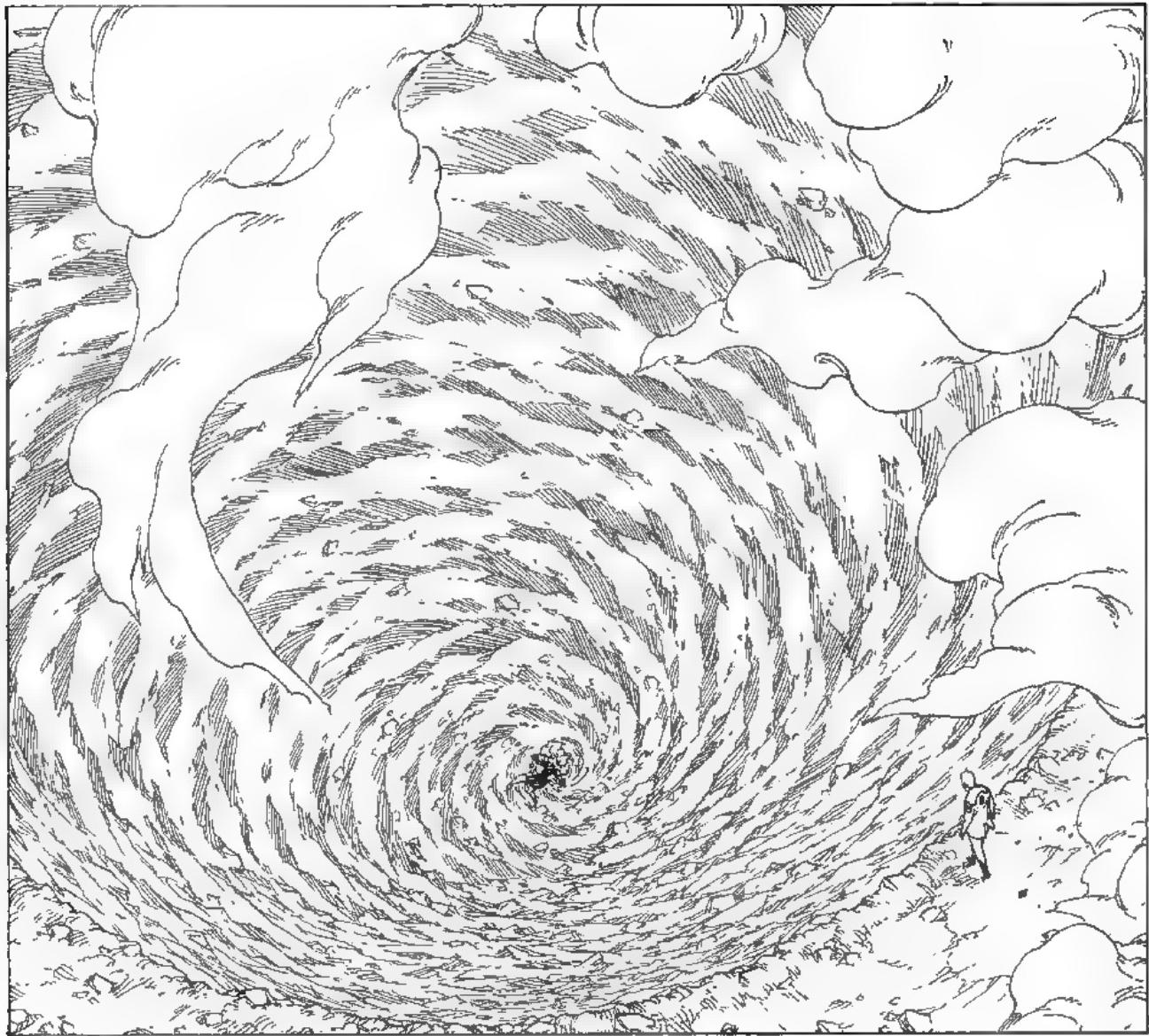


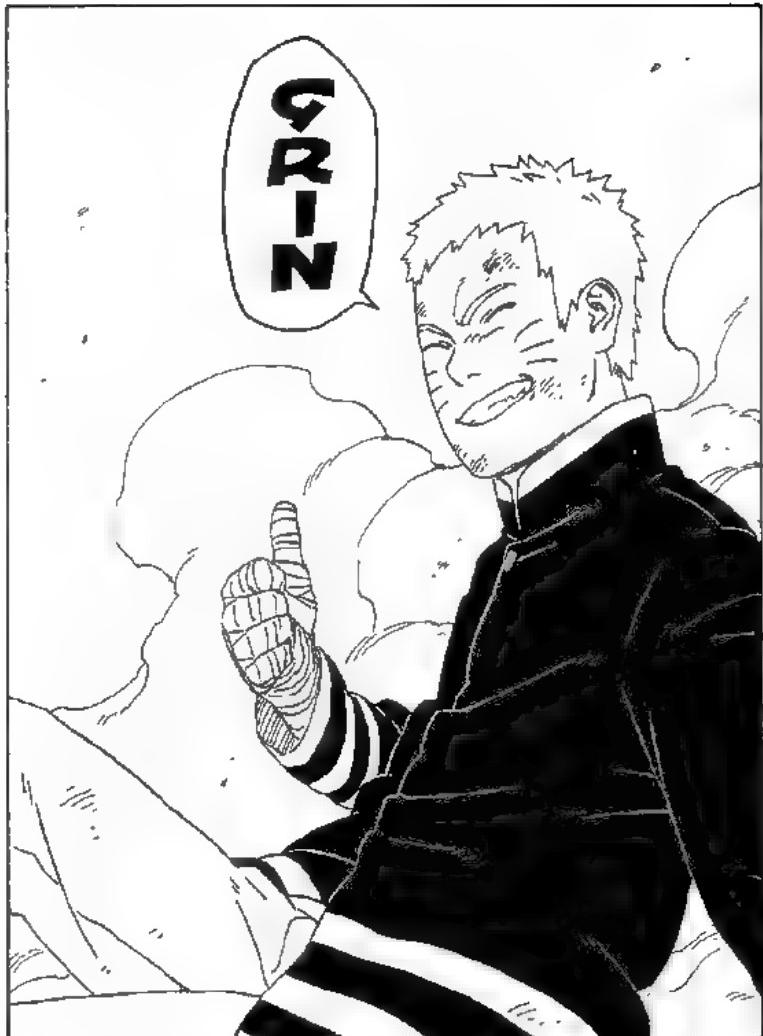














Shinobi Hiden Column 2: Shinobi and Their Missions

Shinobi are active in order to earn money. In movies or television dramas, shinobi gloriously battle evils that threaten the world, or hidden villages shrouded in mystery, every day. Not that this impression is totally mistaken, but it is also not the entire picture. Shinobi undertake missions, and receive money in return. Clients pay money to a Village on a per-mission basis, and then the Village deducts a commission and disburses the remainder to each respective shinobi. However, there are also many Villages (including Konoha) that guarantee a minimum fixed salary, because otherwise shinobi who stop getting assigned missions would not be able to eat. At the present time, a uniform mission ranking system is utilized by the Five Great Villages.

D rank	Odd jobs (such as finding cats, babysitting, errands, digging for sweet potatoes)
C rank	Regular missions (such as intelligence gathering, eradicating bandits, medical treatments)
B rank	VS. ninja missions (combat against genin anticipated)
A rank	Military missions (combat against one or more squads of ninja which include chunin)
S rank	VS. jonin missions (combat against jonin and Gokage class ninja)

As a general rule, genin are only supposed to be assigned D and C rank missions, but due to workforce shortages after the Great Ninja War, there are more than a few genin in every Village who are assigned B and A rank missions. (of whom Boruto is one) Moreover, shinobi who are engaged in chronic, invariable work like those in the Police Force and Black Ops are paid wages comparable to missions of equivalent rank ordered by the Village. As shinobi society becomes more sophisticated and missions increase correspondingly, the number of shinobi receiving such "fixed salaries" has also grown. For instance, Katasuke and Sumire are contracted by the laboratory owned by Konoha Village to perform research as their mission, and are shinobi who are restricted to do just research (incidentally, their work corresponds to A rank, so their pay is better than Boruto's). External commissions are doled out based on suitability by the two chunin in charge of commissions, "Explanation Lady" Kannonji Suika and "Miss Receptionist" Mishiro Fuyuki. If A rank or higher, they consult Naruto and Shikamaru for their opinions, but otherwise, the chunin in charge of commissions have great authority, and are regarded with both fear and awe for holding the shinobi's purse strings in their grasp.

|||| Number 34: Training||



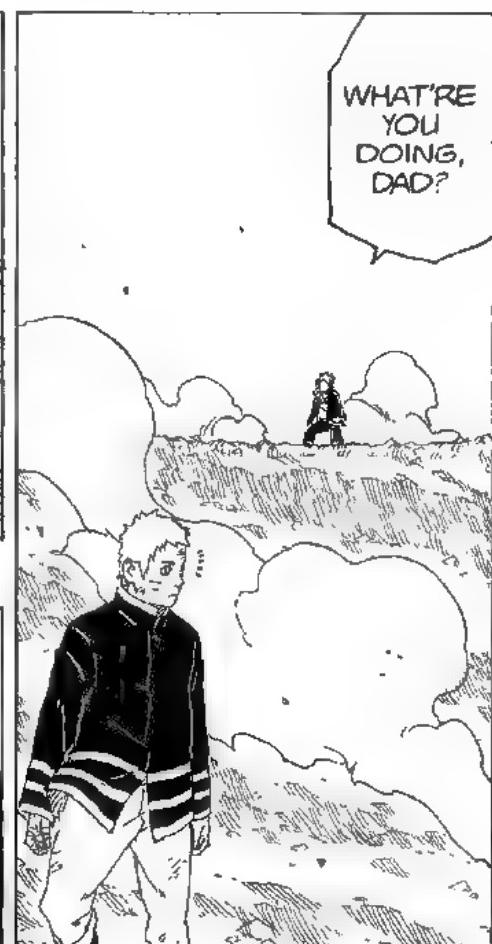


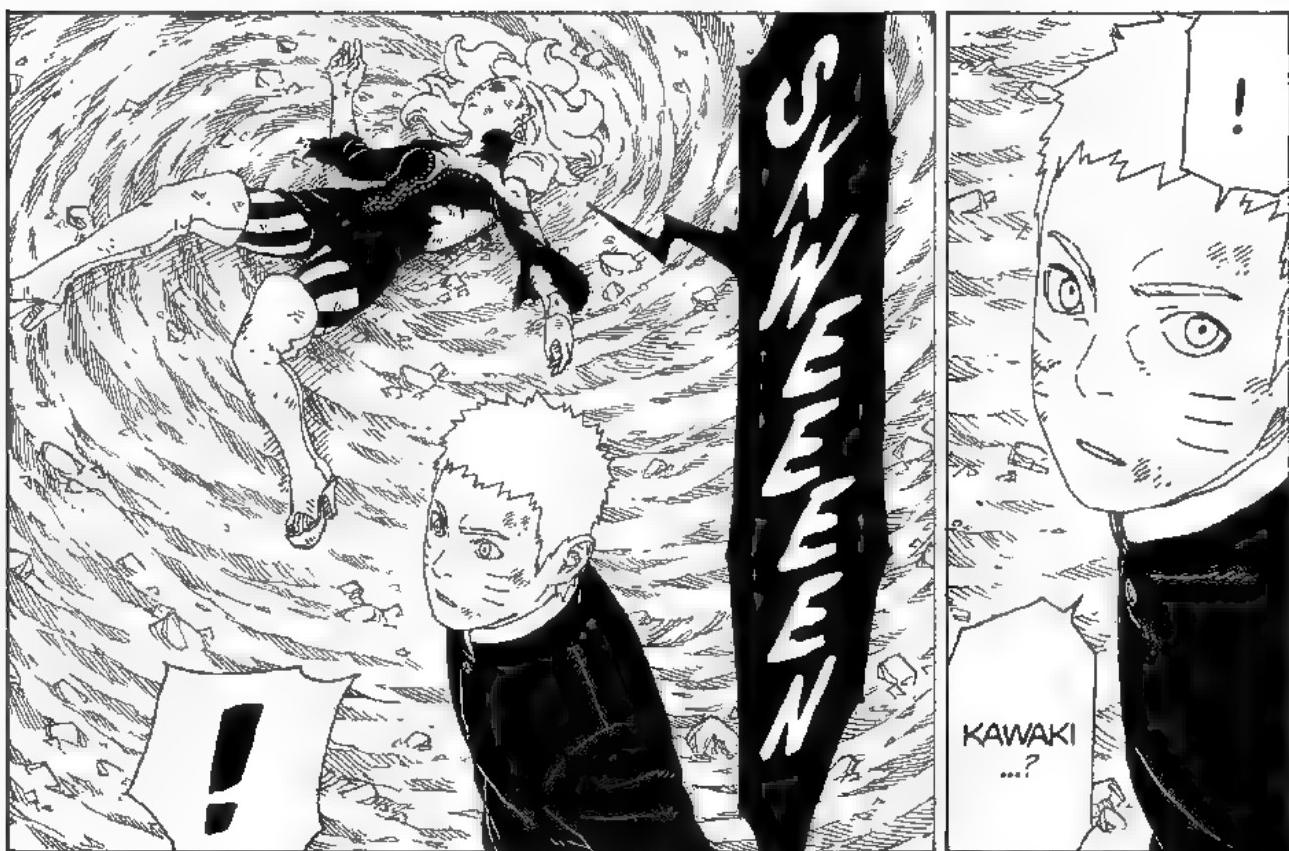
I'M
BRINGING
HER WITH
US, FOR
INTER-
ROGATING.

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING,
DAD?



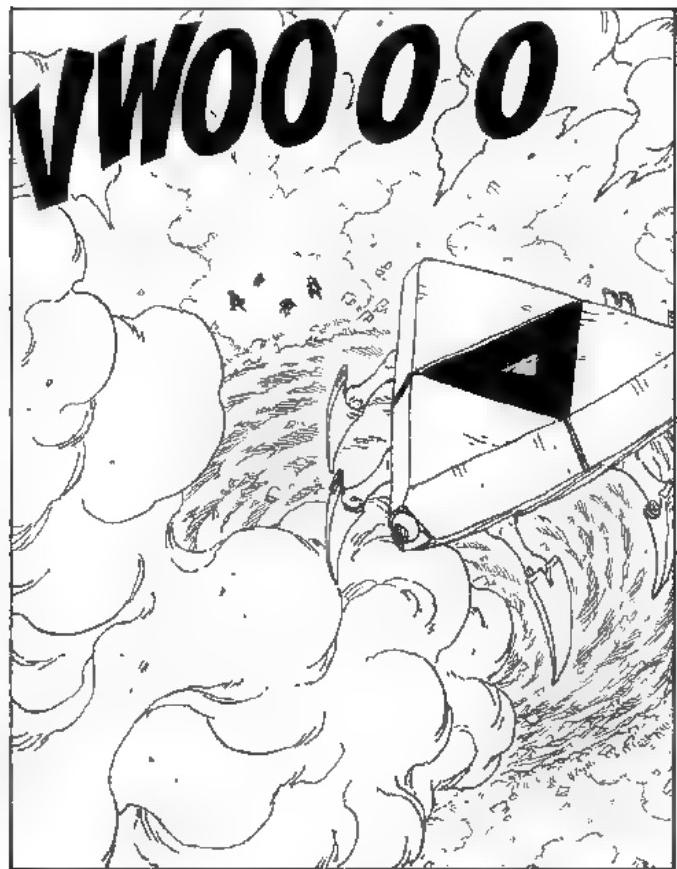
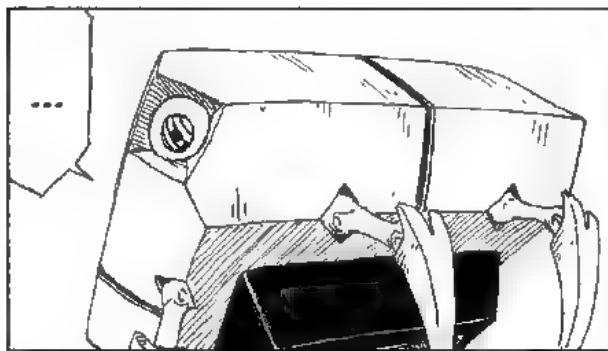
DELTA'S
STILL
ALIVE?

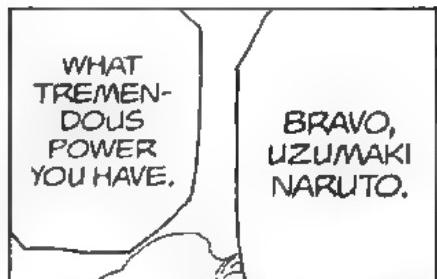
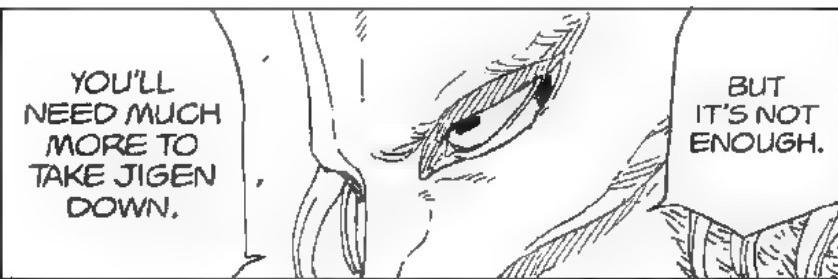


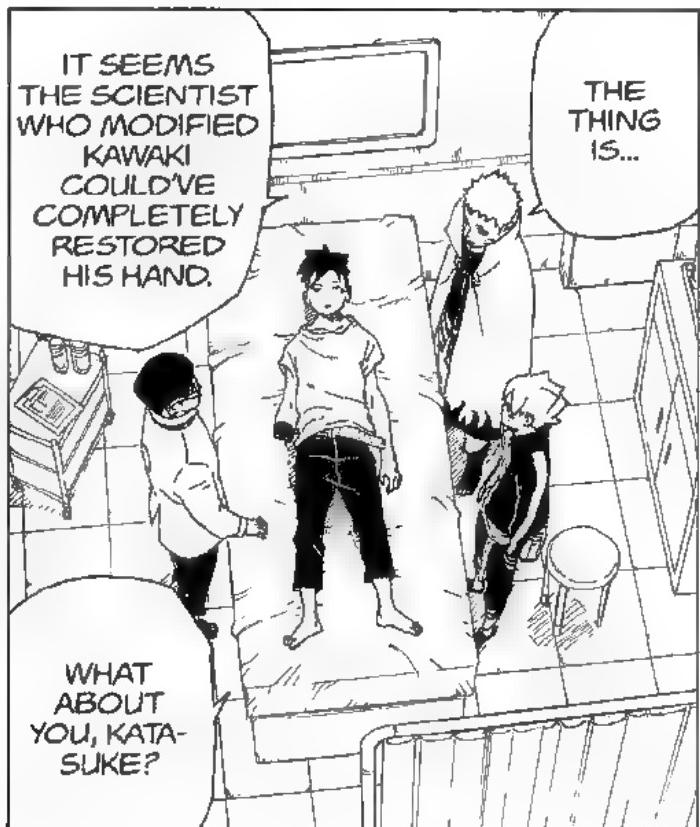
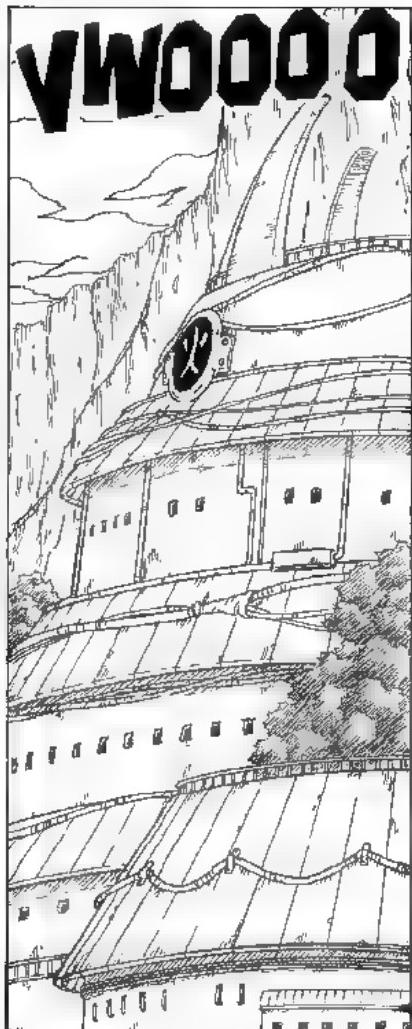


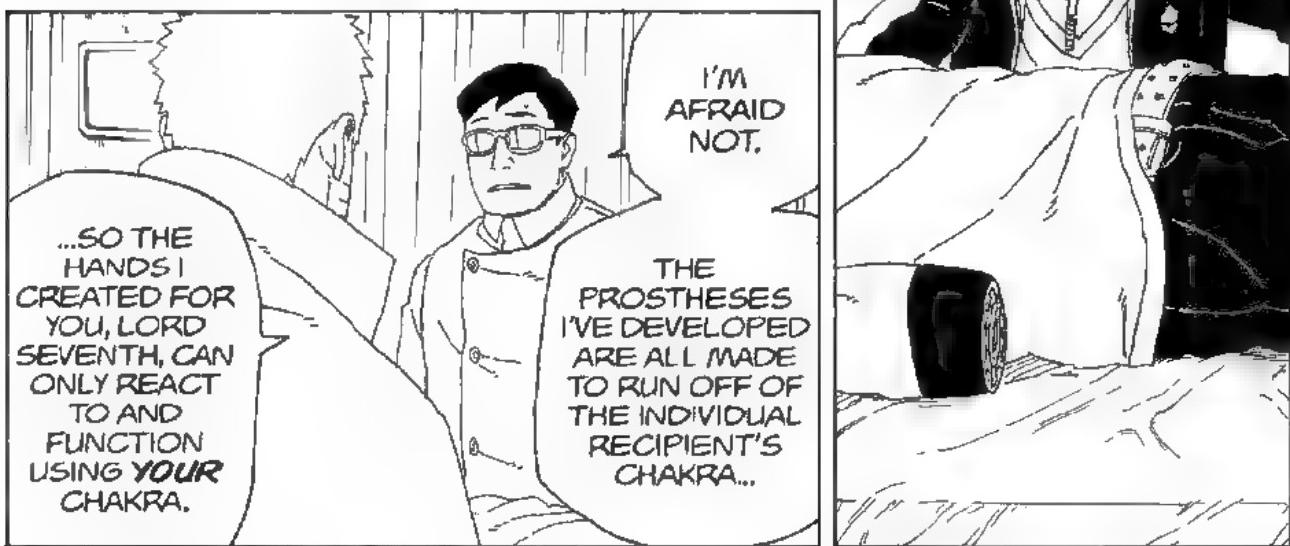


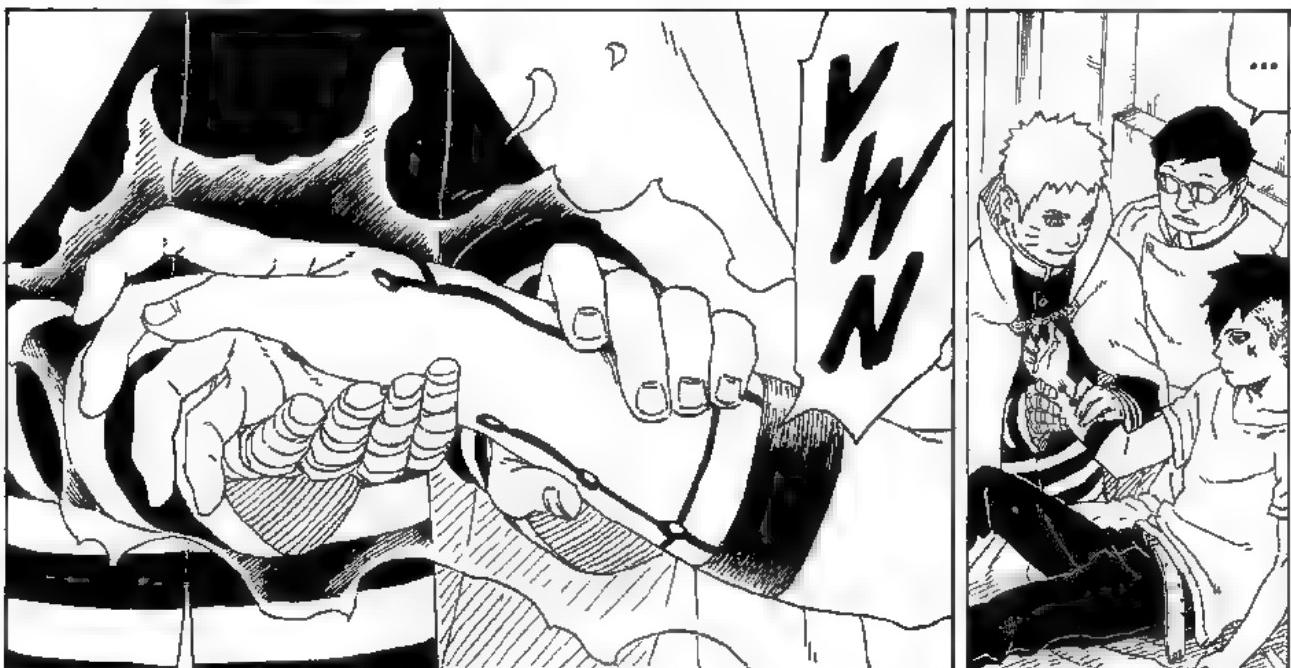




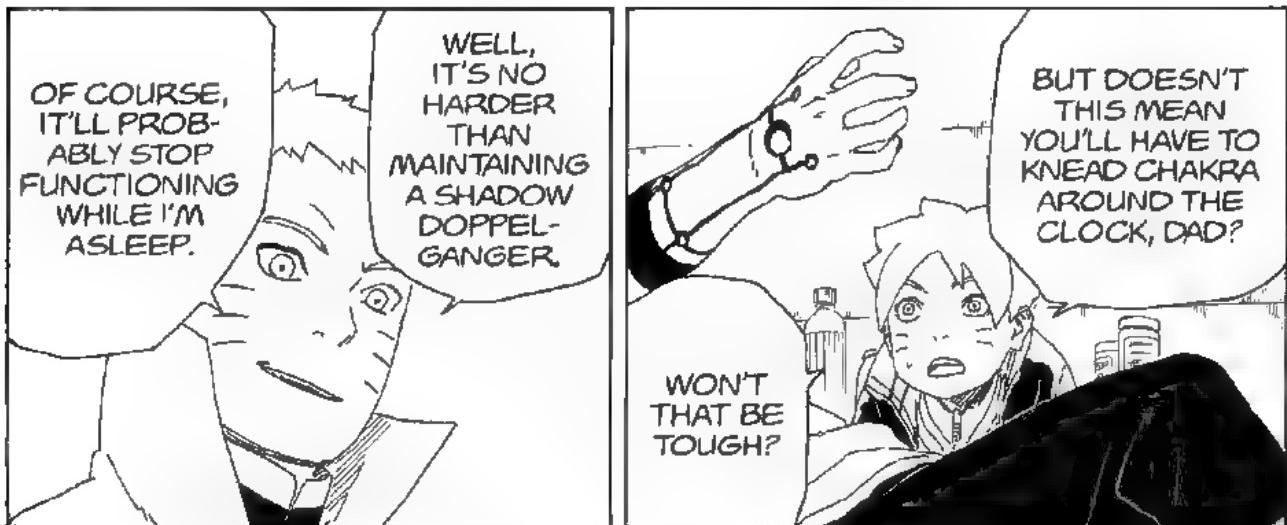




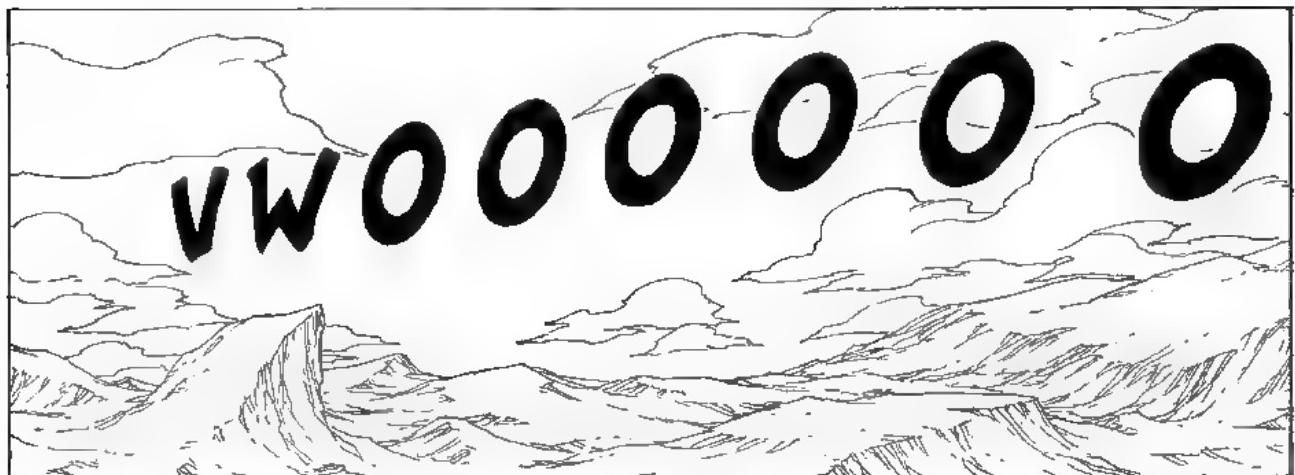


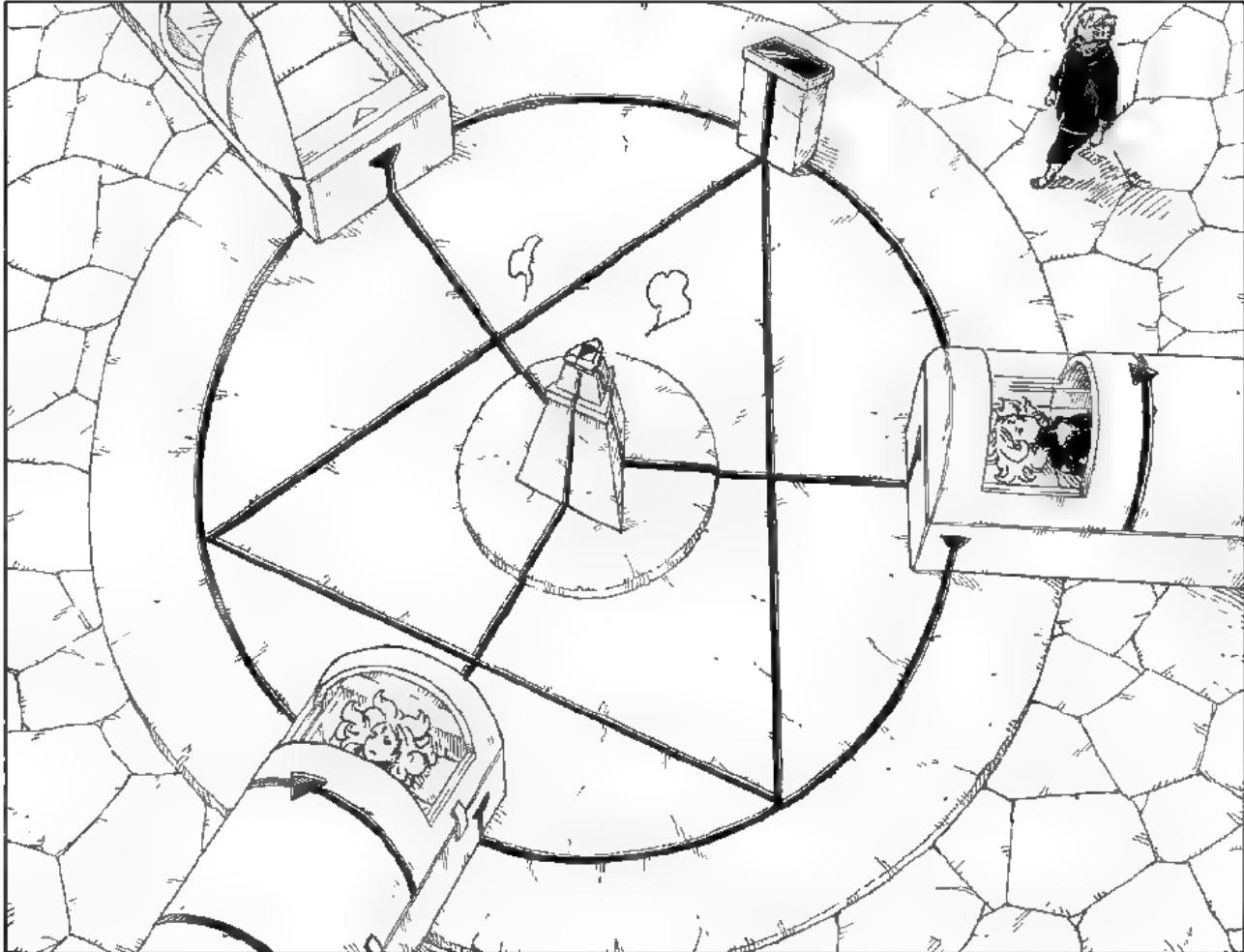
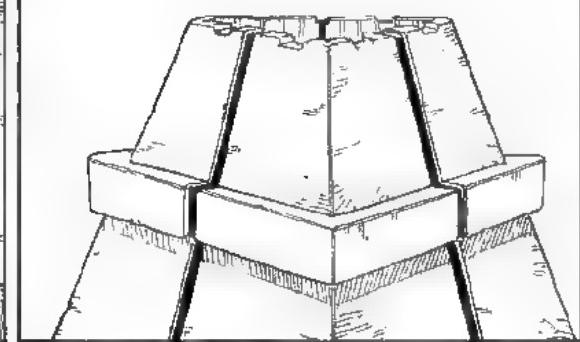
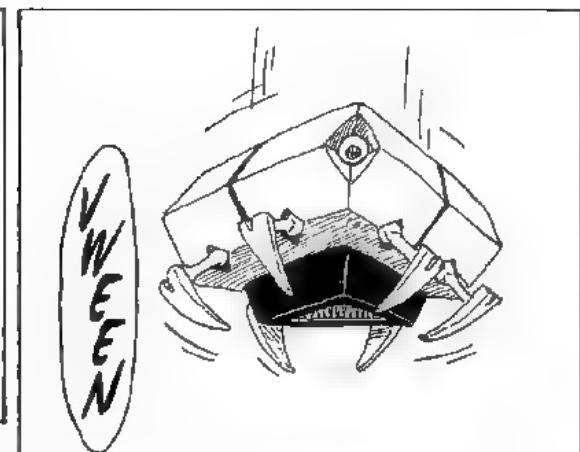
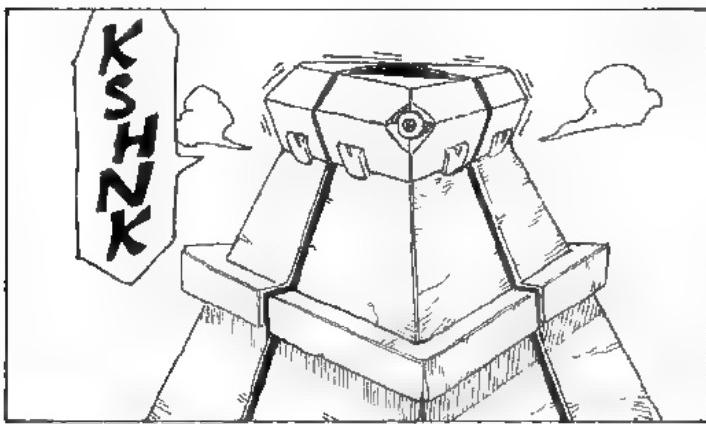


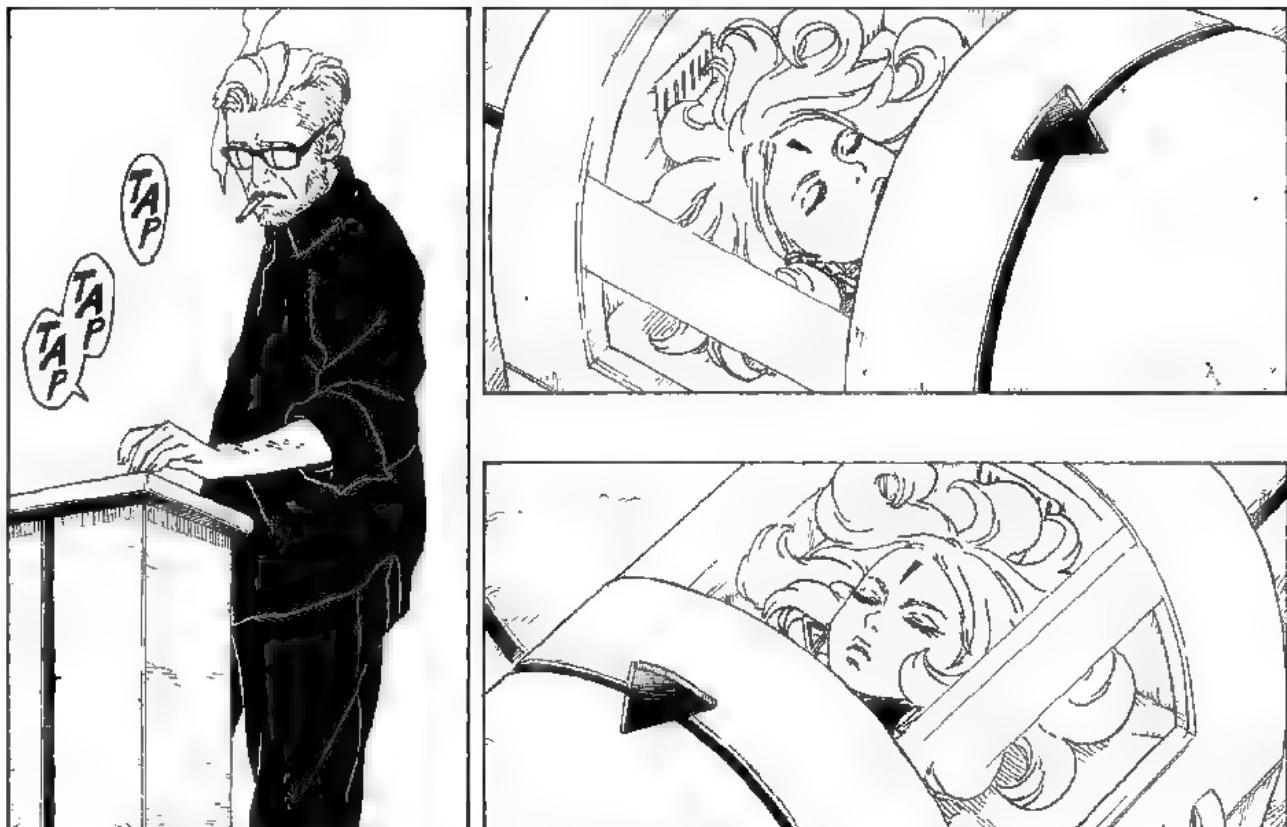


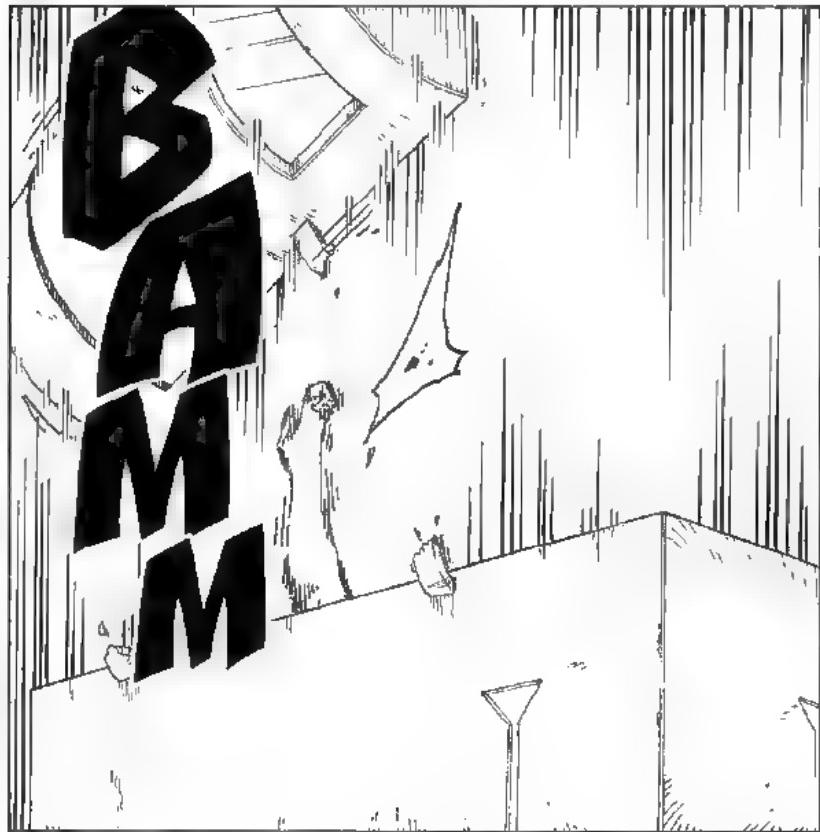
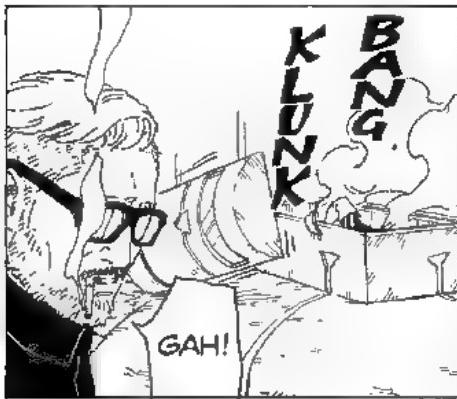


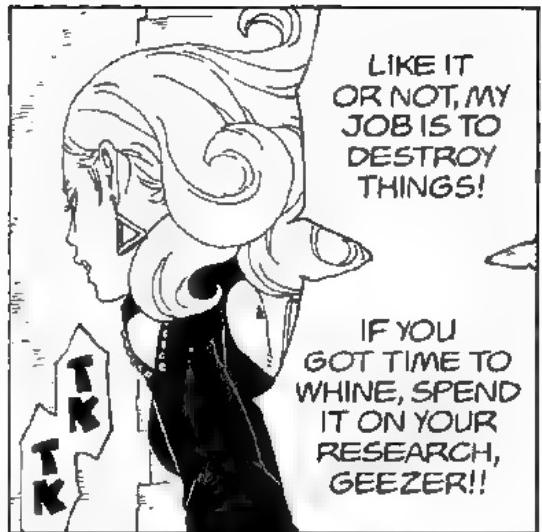






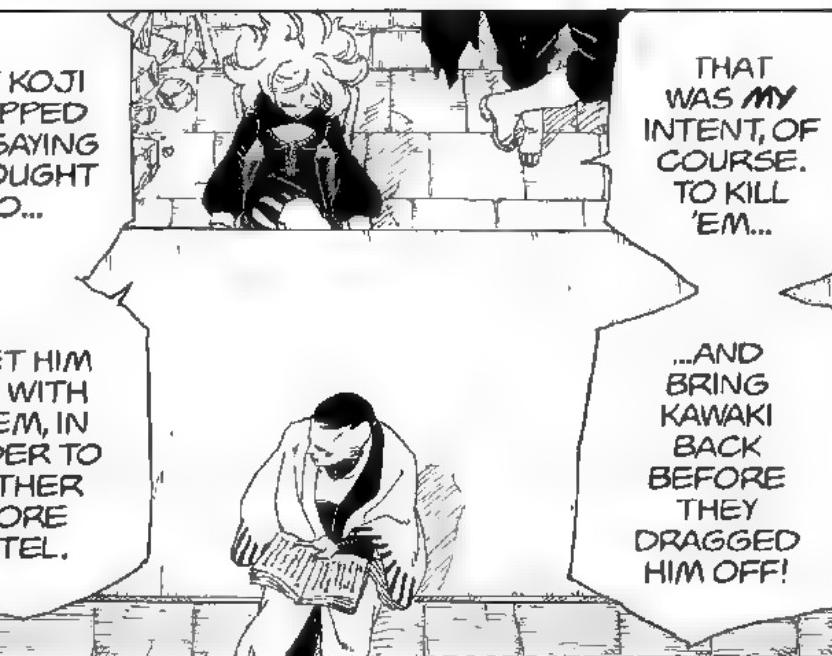




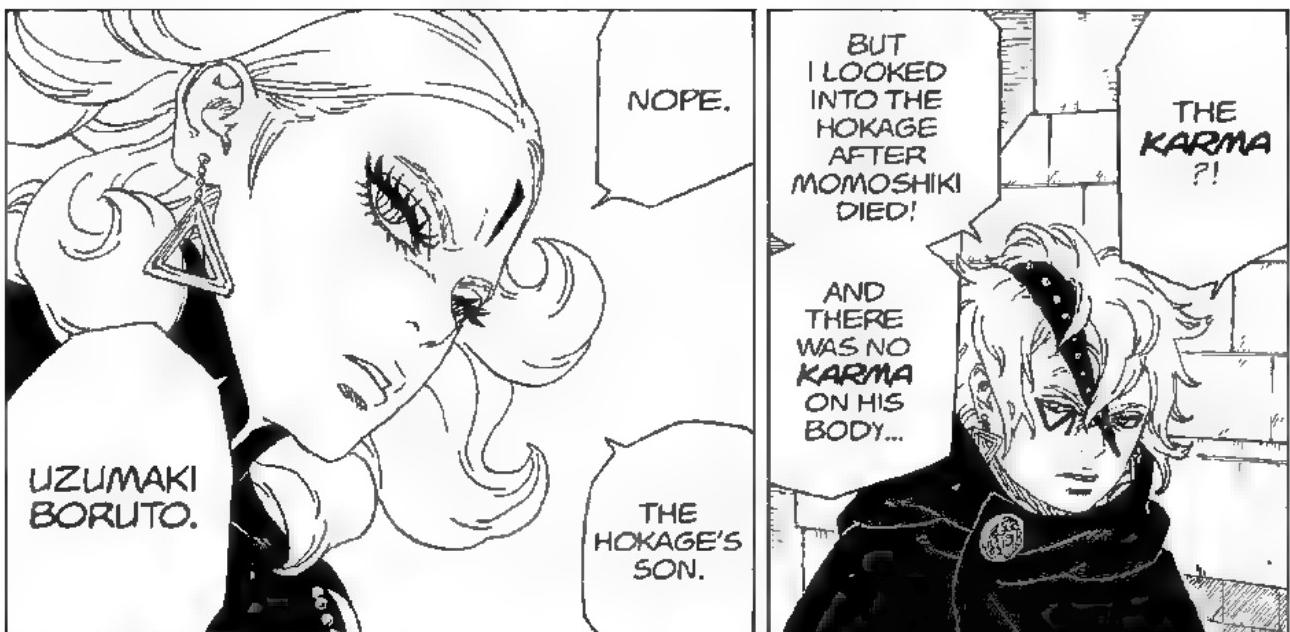










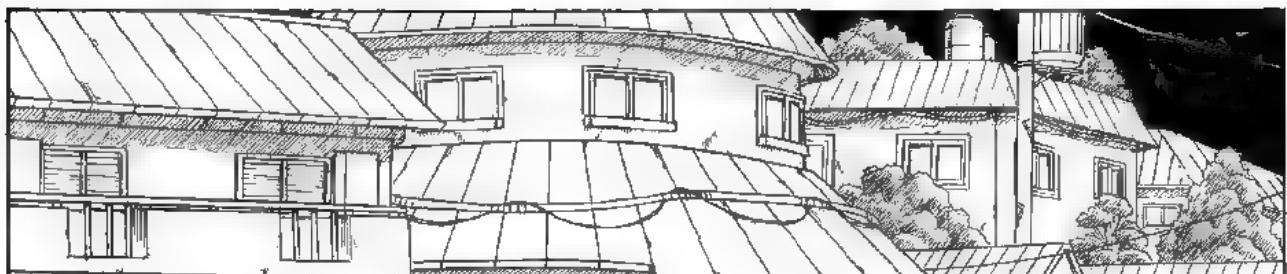


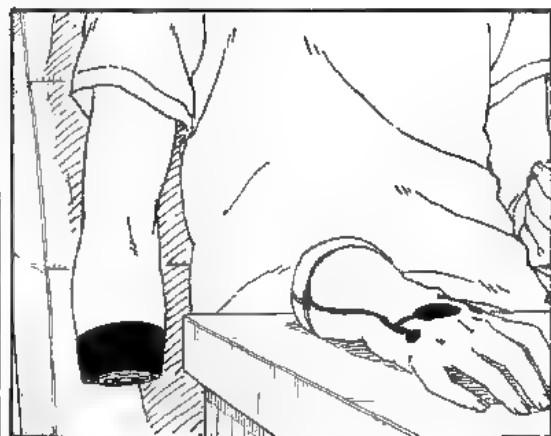
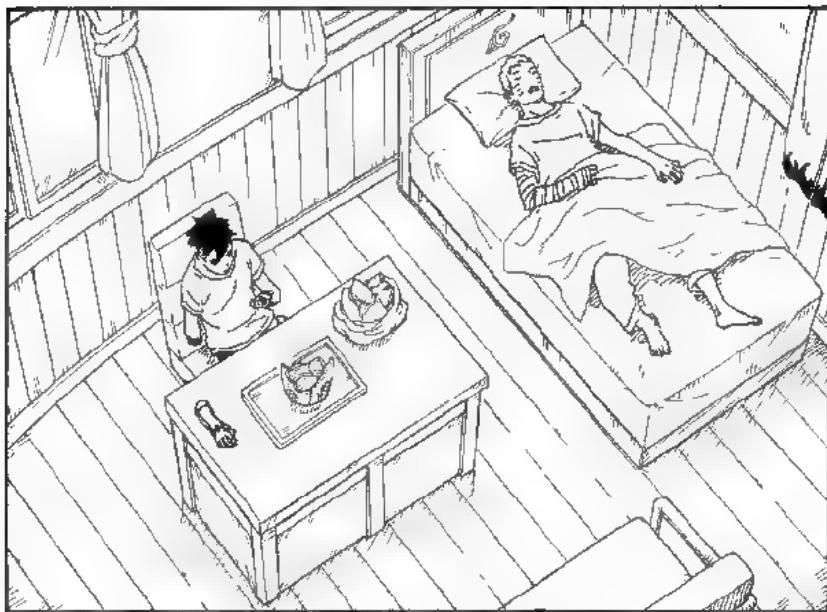














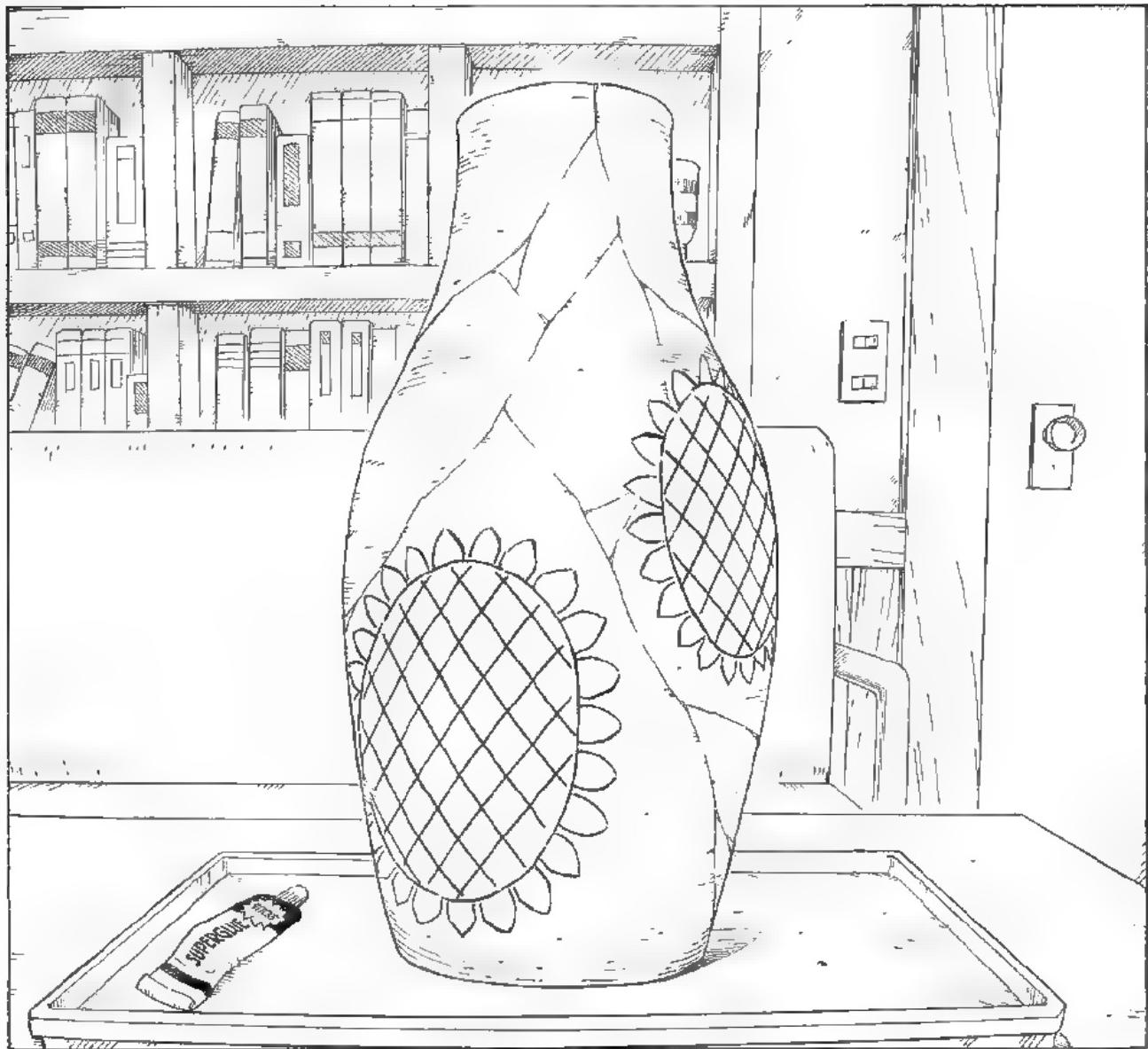


















Shinobi Hiden Column 3: Shinobi and How They Are Organized

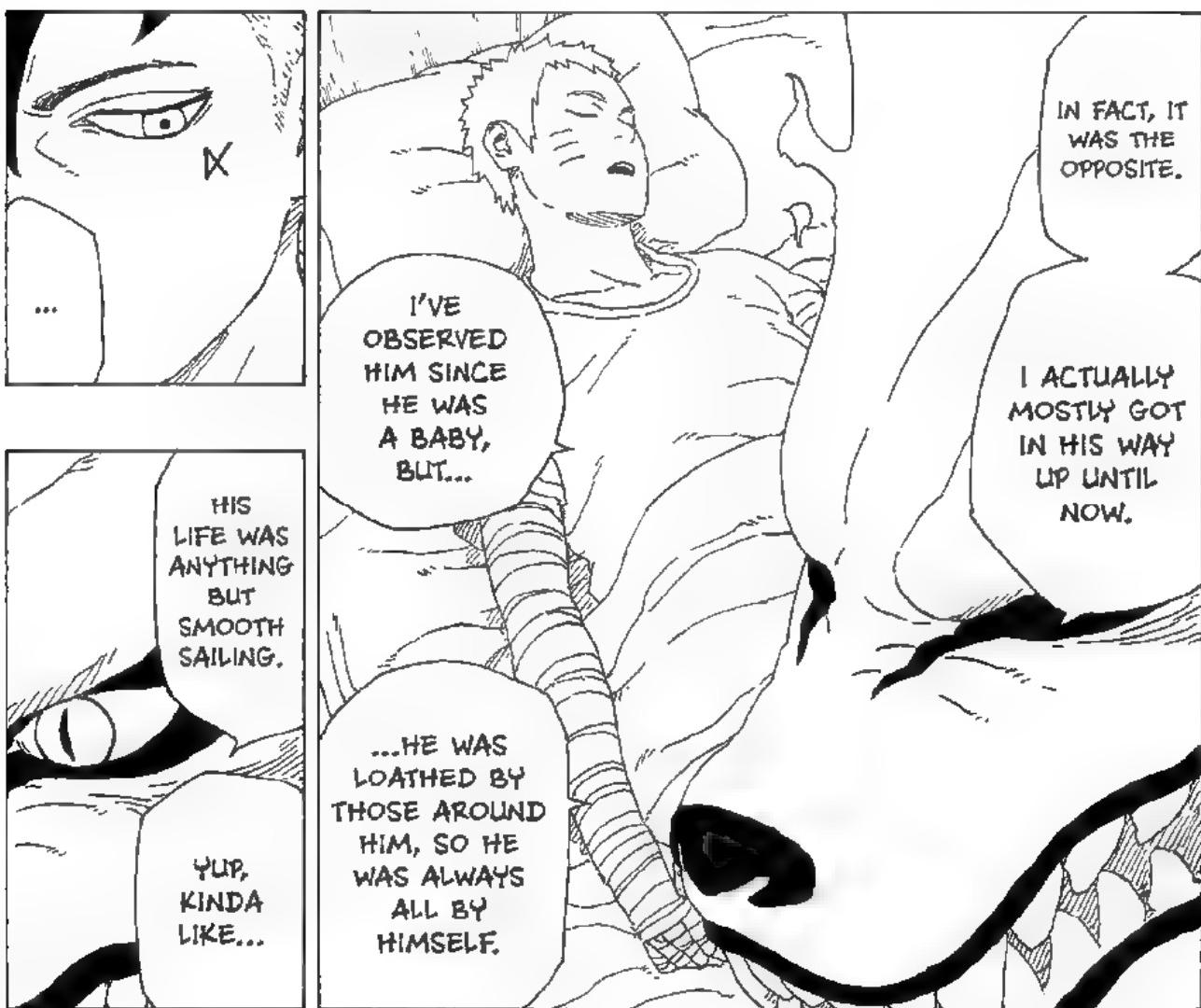
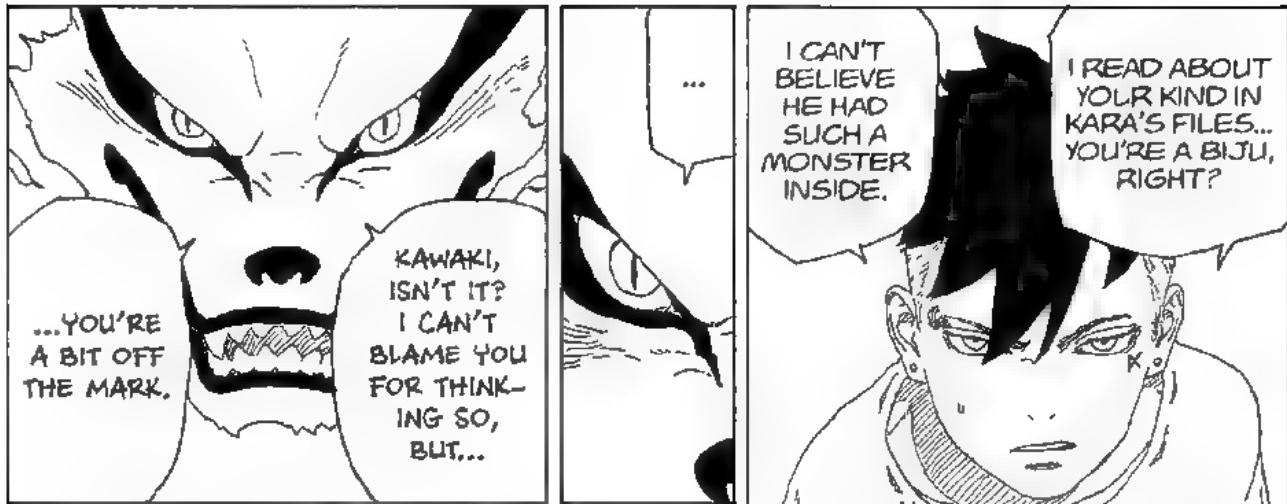
The smallest unit of shinobi is a three-member squad (Three-Man Cell). This is because three is the most appropriate number of people to cover each other's blind spots, while not placing excessive restrictions on each other's movements. A unit consisting of a Three-Man Cell plus a commanding officer (Sergeant) has the designation "Team." Team is family, Team is siblings. However, the Three-Man Cell is not a golden rule. Super high-level shinobi, such as Naruto, tend more to solo action, and Sarutobi Konohamaru, renowned as a Konoha genius, favors paired movement (Two-Man Cell) with his partner. Having said that, other than a few exceptions such as these and so long as it is not a special mission, the "Team" unit incorporating a Three-Man Cell should be regarded as the standard. Of course, depending on the details of the mission, the individual composition of the assigned Three-Man Cell might be altered. Furthermore, in the case of a large-scale mission, a six-member battle unit (Combat Squad) would be formed by combining two Teams. There would be one commanding officer in this instance too, resulting in 1 commanding officer + 6 battle unit = 7 shinobi, working in concert. Such a battle unit is almost at the limit in terms of personnel number for tactical operations; it is exceedingly rare to be able to effectively manage more individuals in a closely packed state. This is because many ninjutsu possess an extremely wide range of attack, and thus the risk of allies inadvertently becoming collateral casualties becomes too great.

The unit that is formed ad hoc in times of large-scale military campaigns is the platoon. One platoon is composed of three battle units, and is led by a high-ranked jonin ninja. Platoons are able to carry out advanced battle jutsu such as surround-and-annihilate, dam sabotage, and multi-front simultaneous assault and it is commonplace to incorporate specialists such as communication ninja, medic ninja, cyber ninja and sensory ninja to be able to independently handle every possible stratagem. There are also cases of companies being formed in Great Ninja War-class conflicts. Composed of three platoons, namely 67 shinobi, a company has just one single objective, such as engaging in the wielding of Katon or long-distance communication, and depending on its sphere, may rival the Gokage, or manage to pull off great feats even the Gokage are incapable of. And higher up than that exist battalions, which are each composed of three companies, but following the conclusion of the Great Ninja War, no Village really expects any further battalion-scale ninja deployment. However, the need to prepare for crises has conversely led to the training of senior officer ninja capable of serving as company and battalion commanders proceeding at a rapid pace. This is because many such commanding officer ninja were lost during the last Great War.

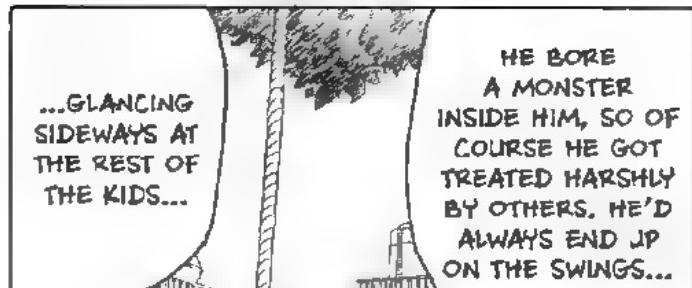
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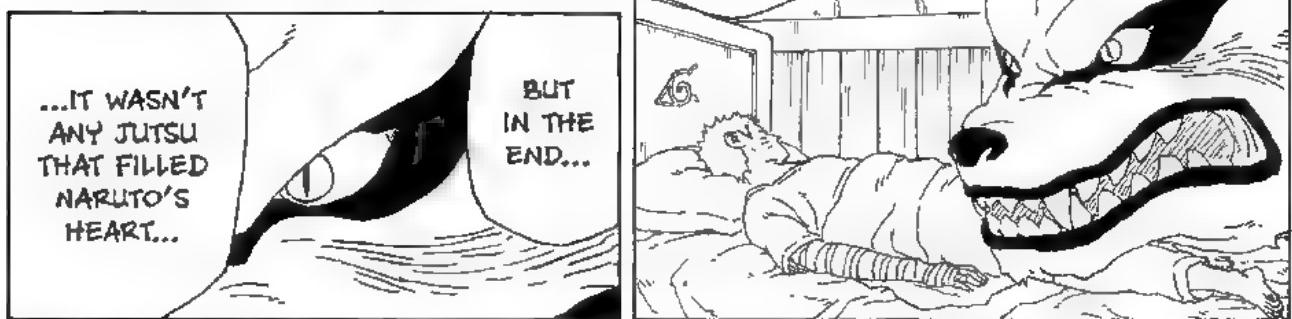
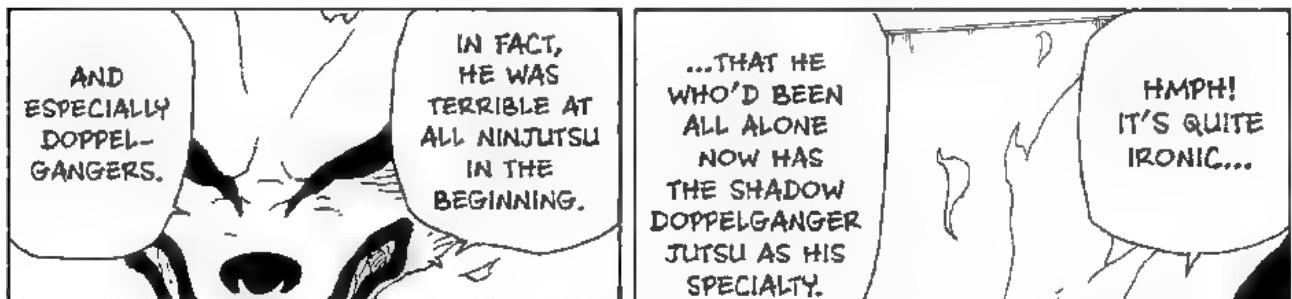






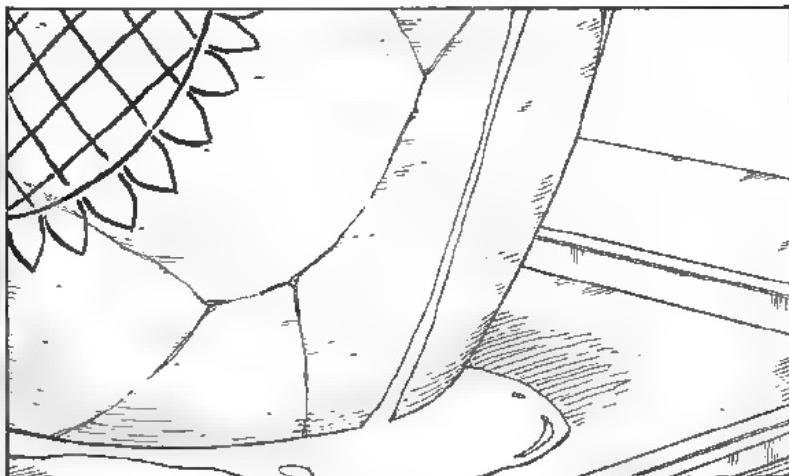
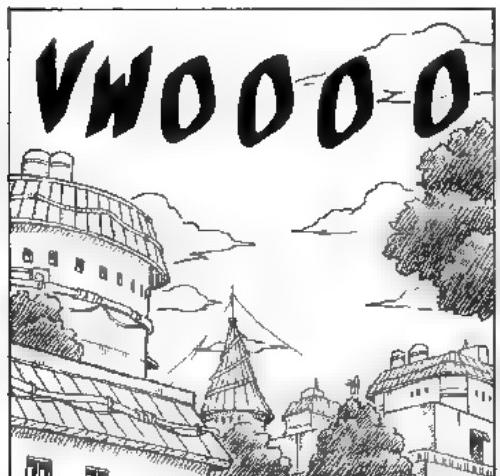
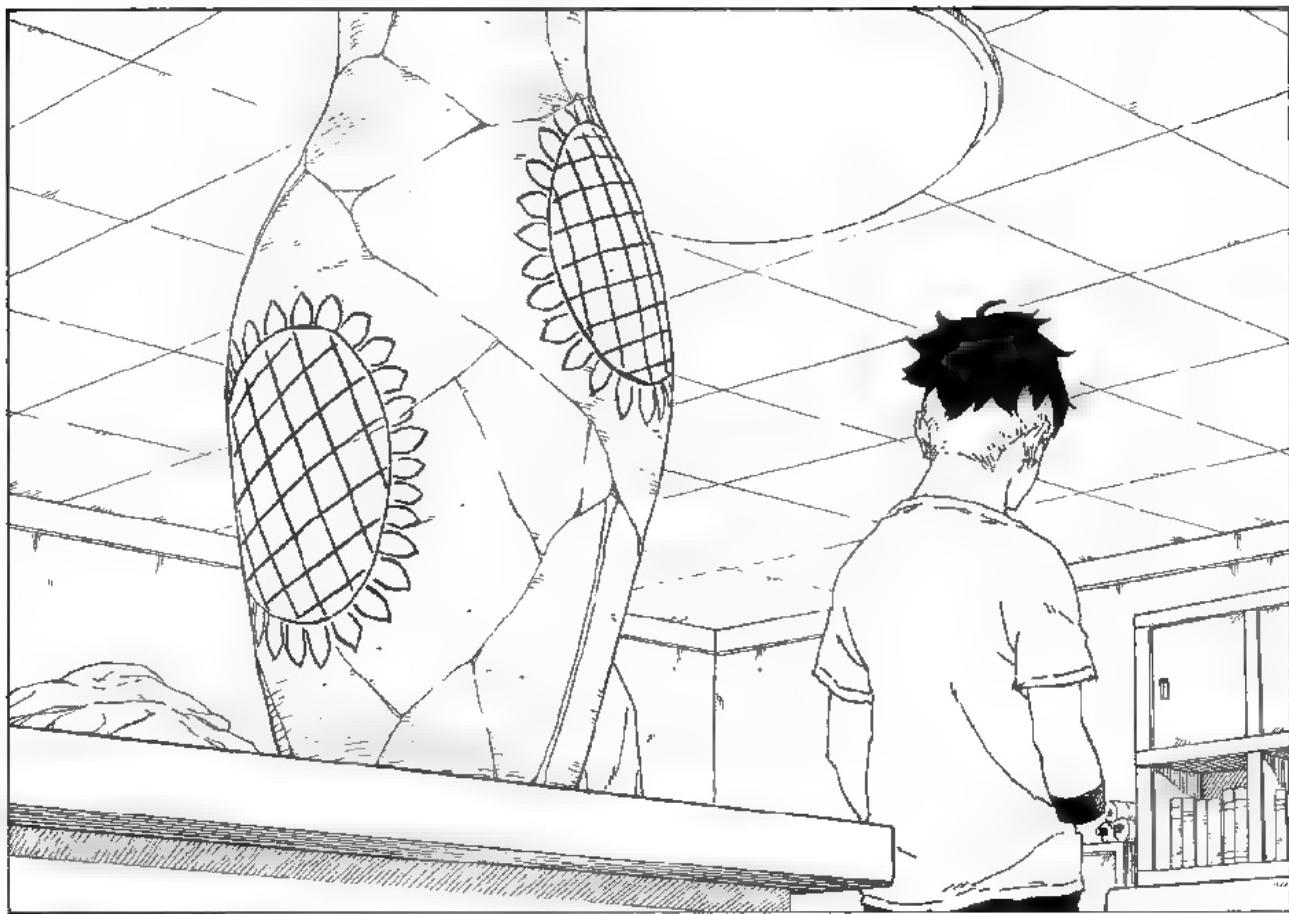


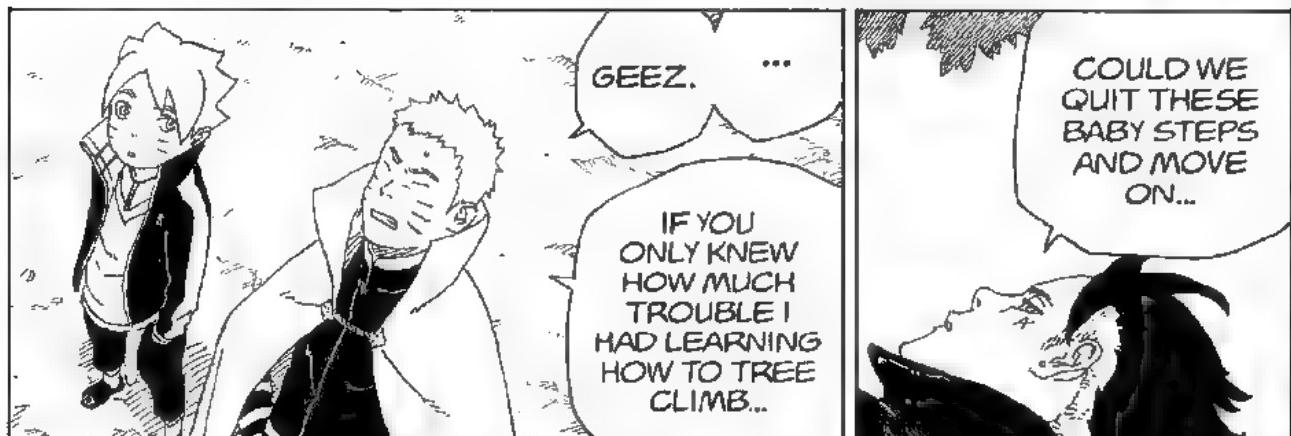


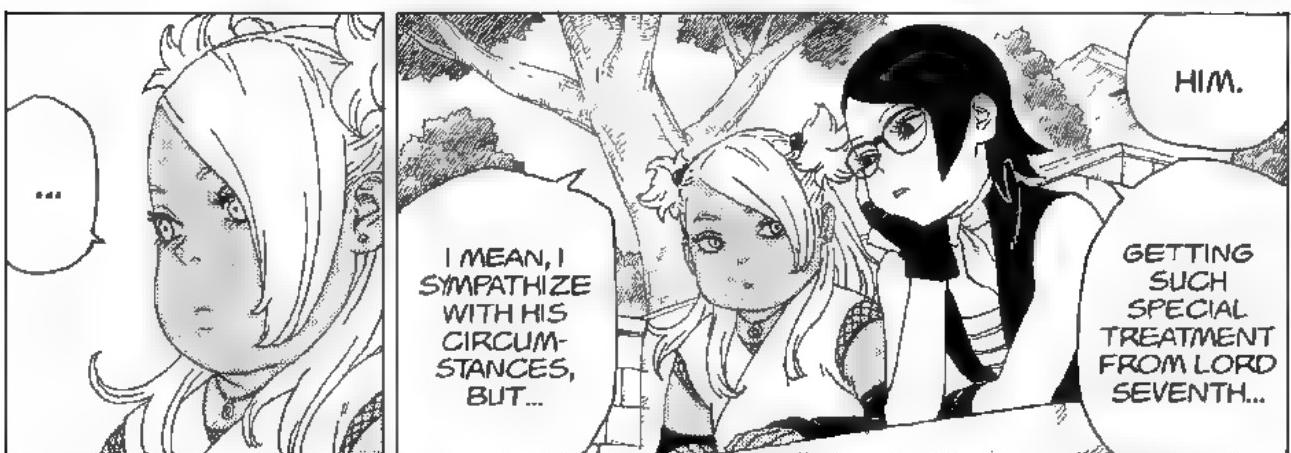






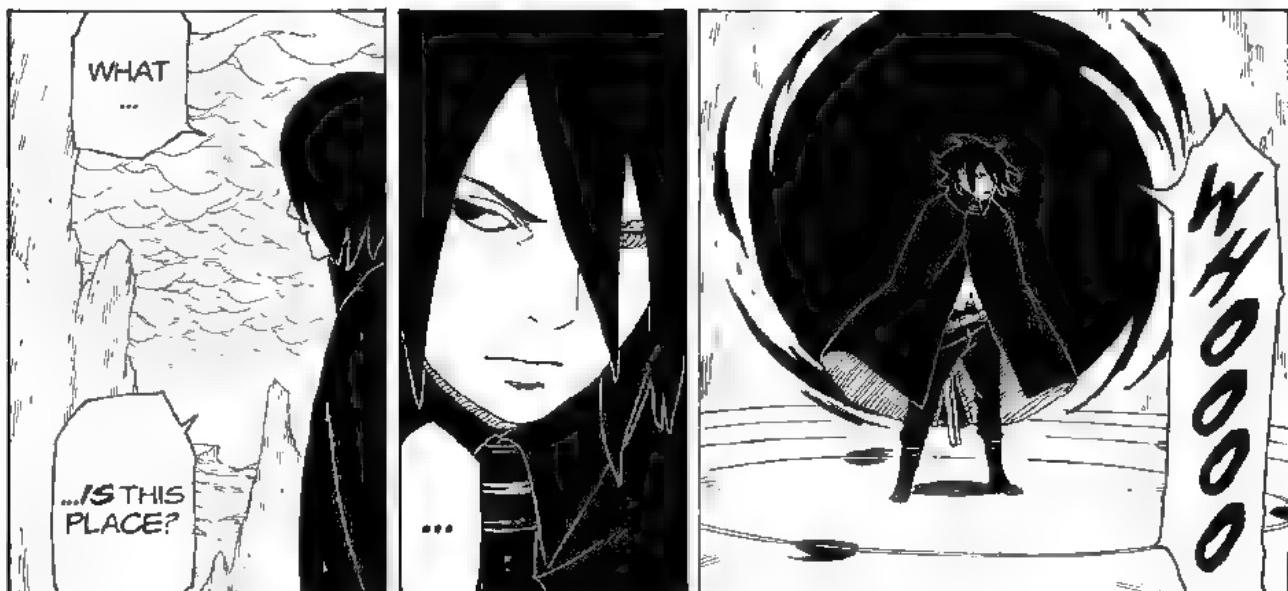
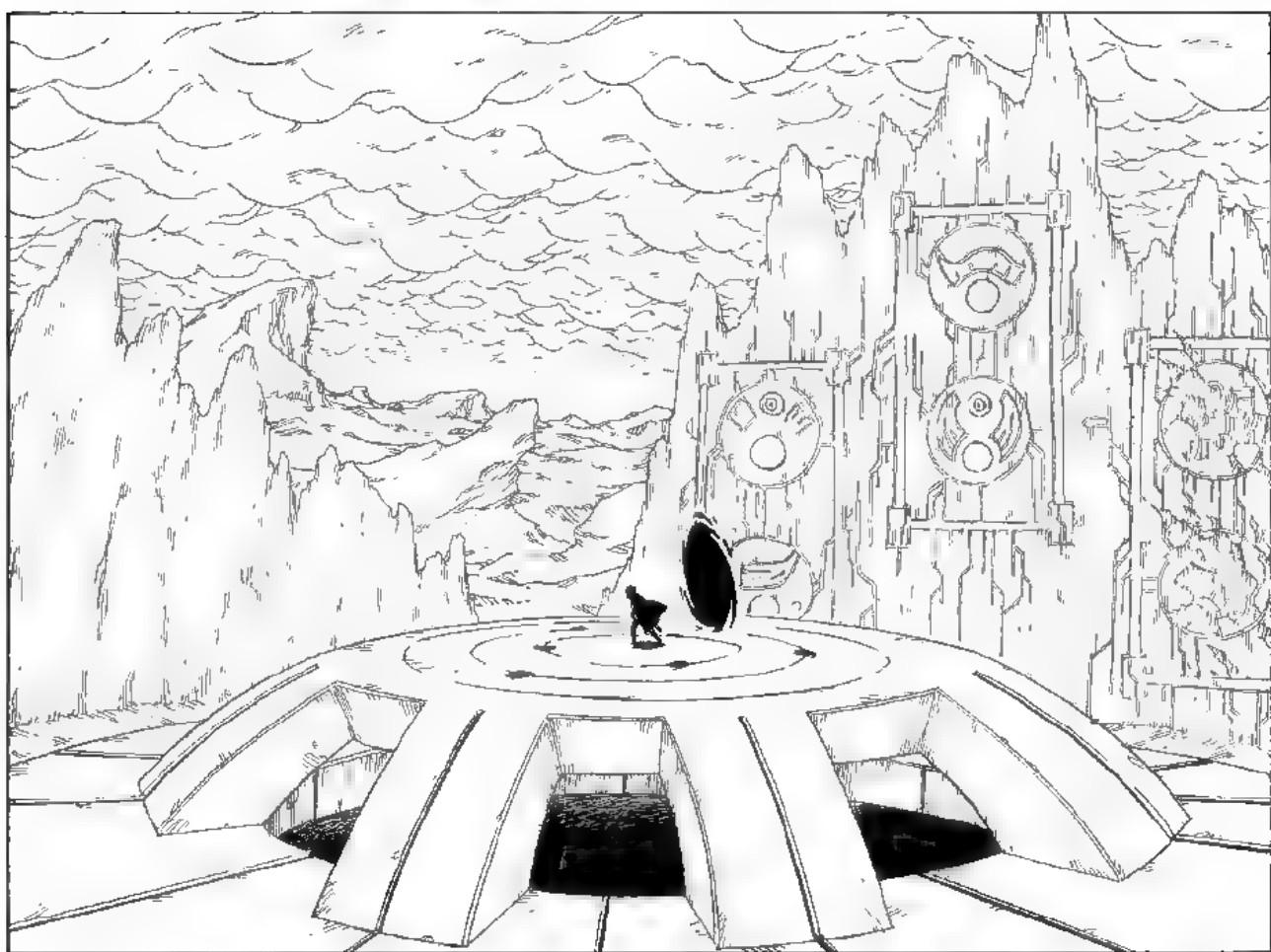
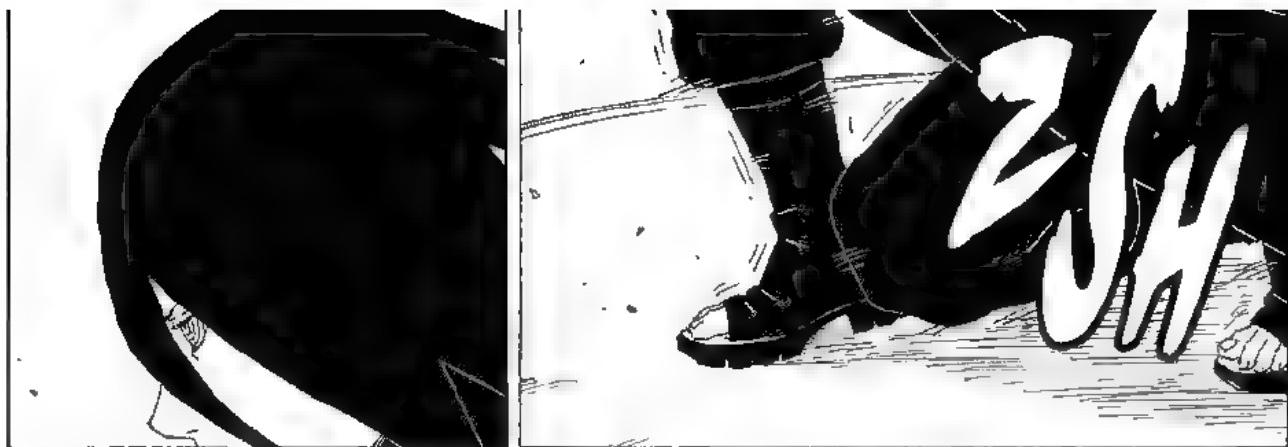


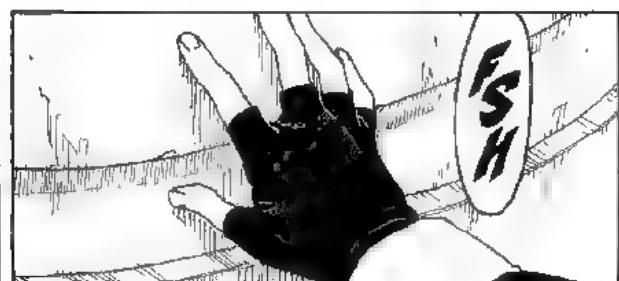
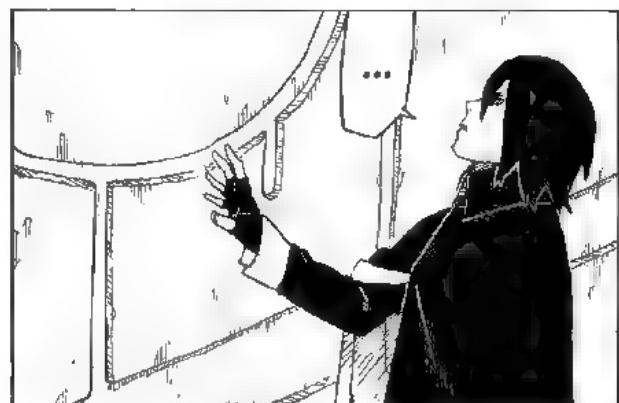
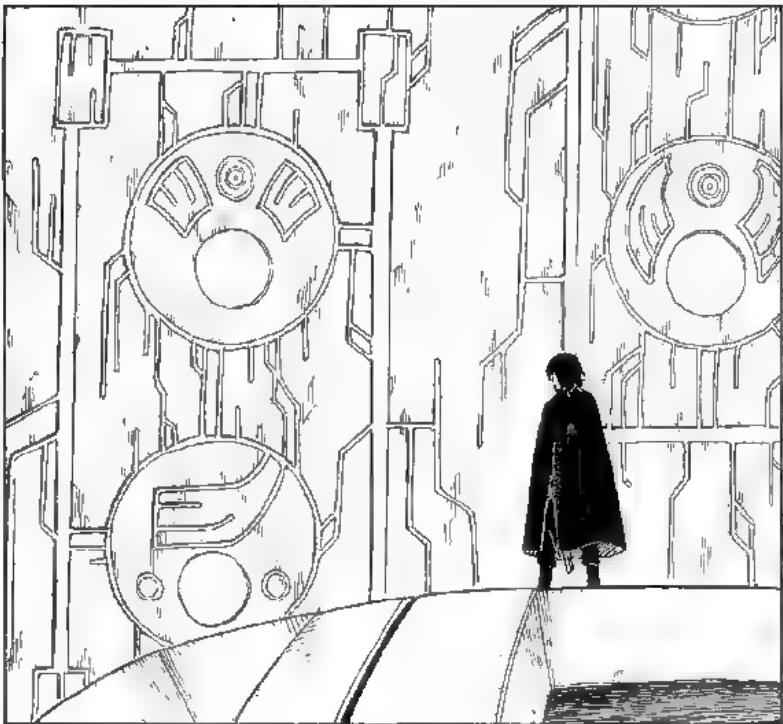


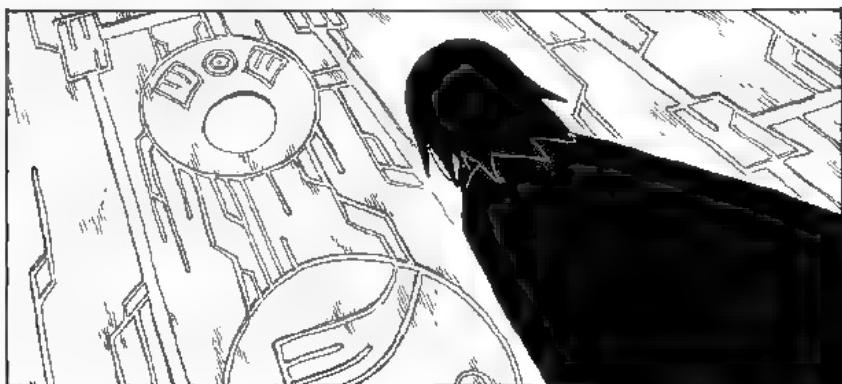
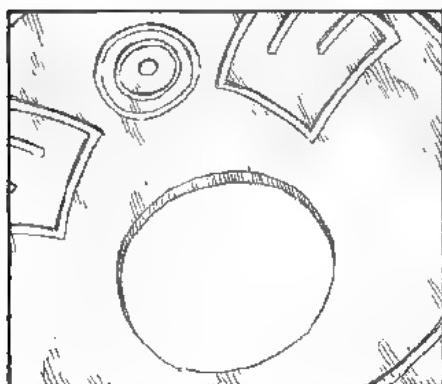
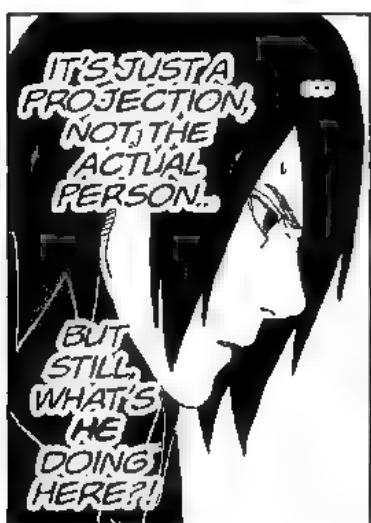
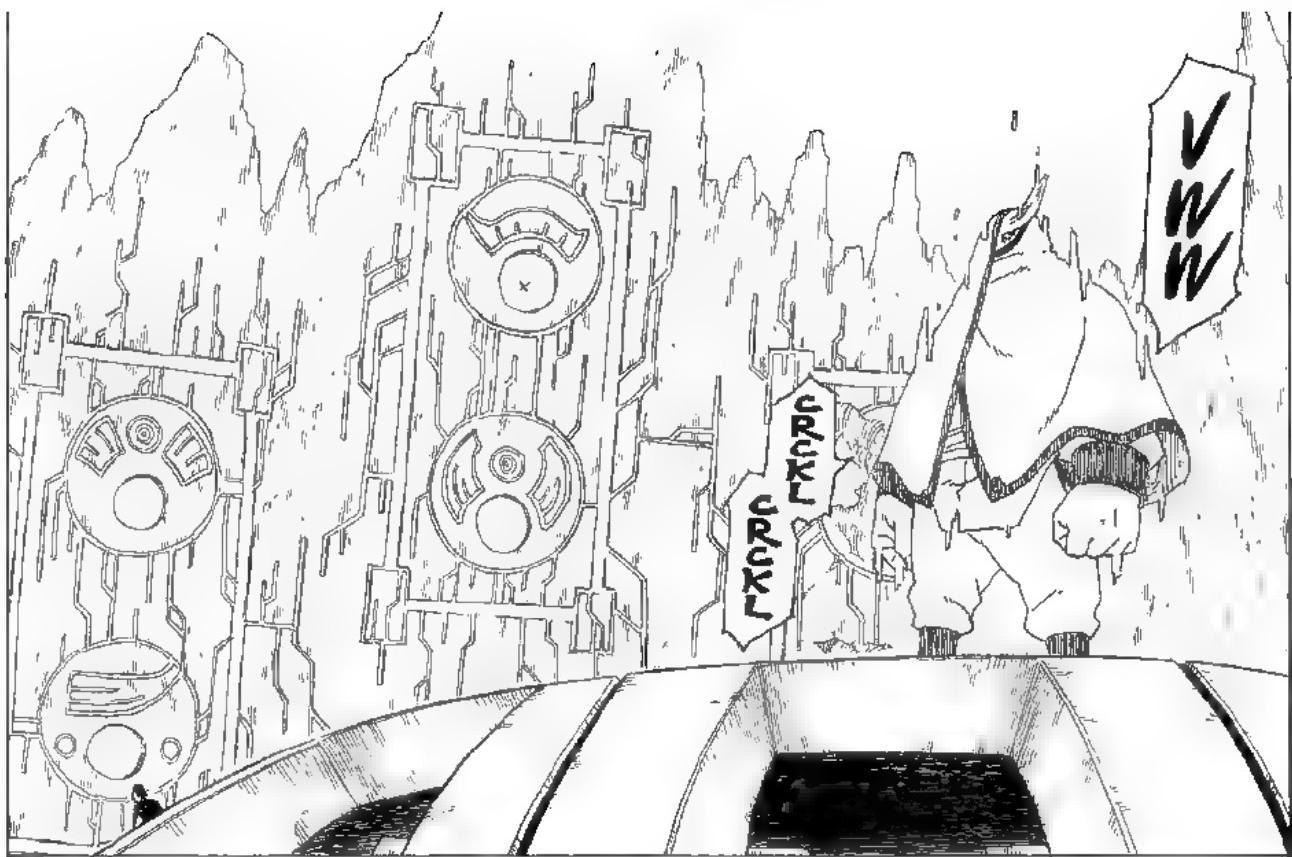


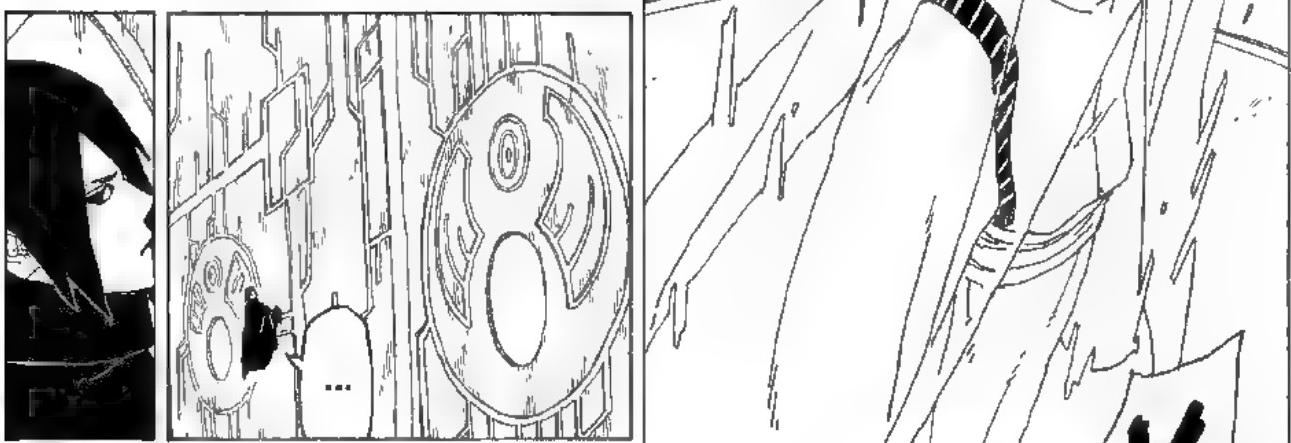
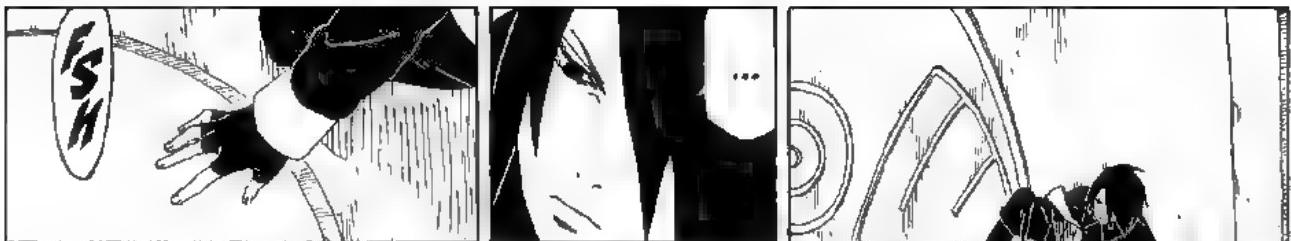


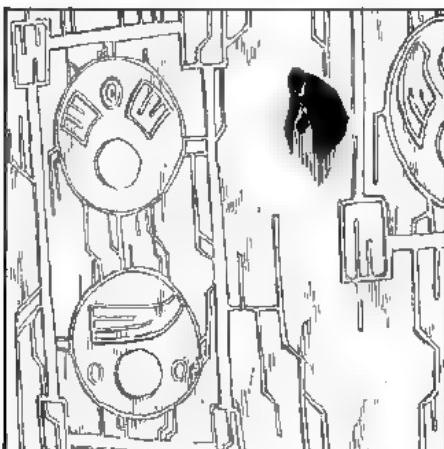
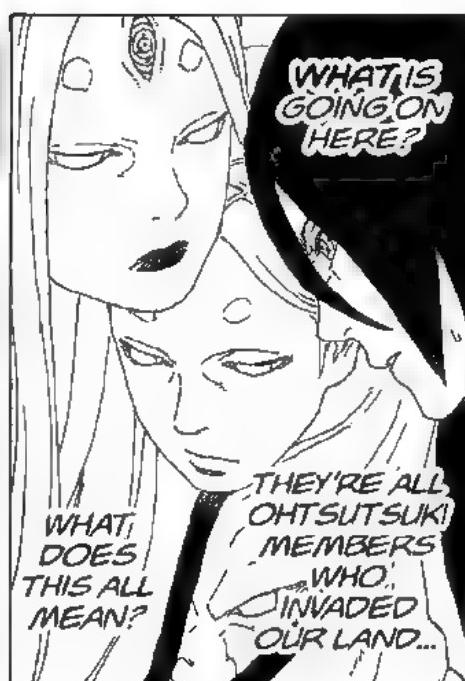
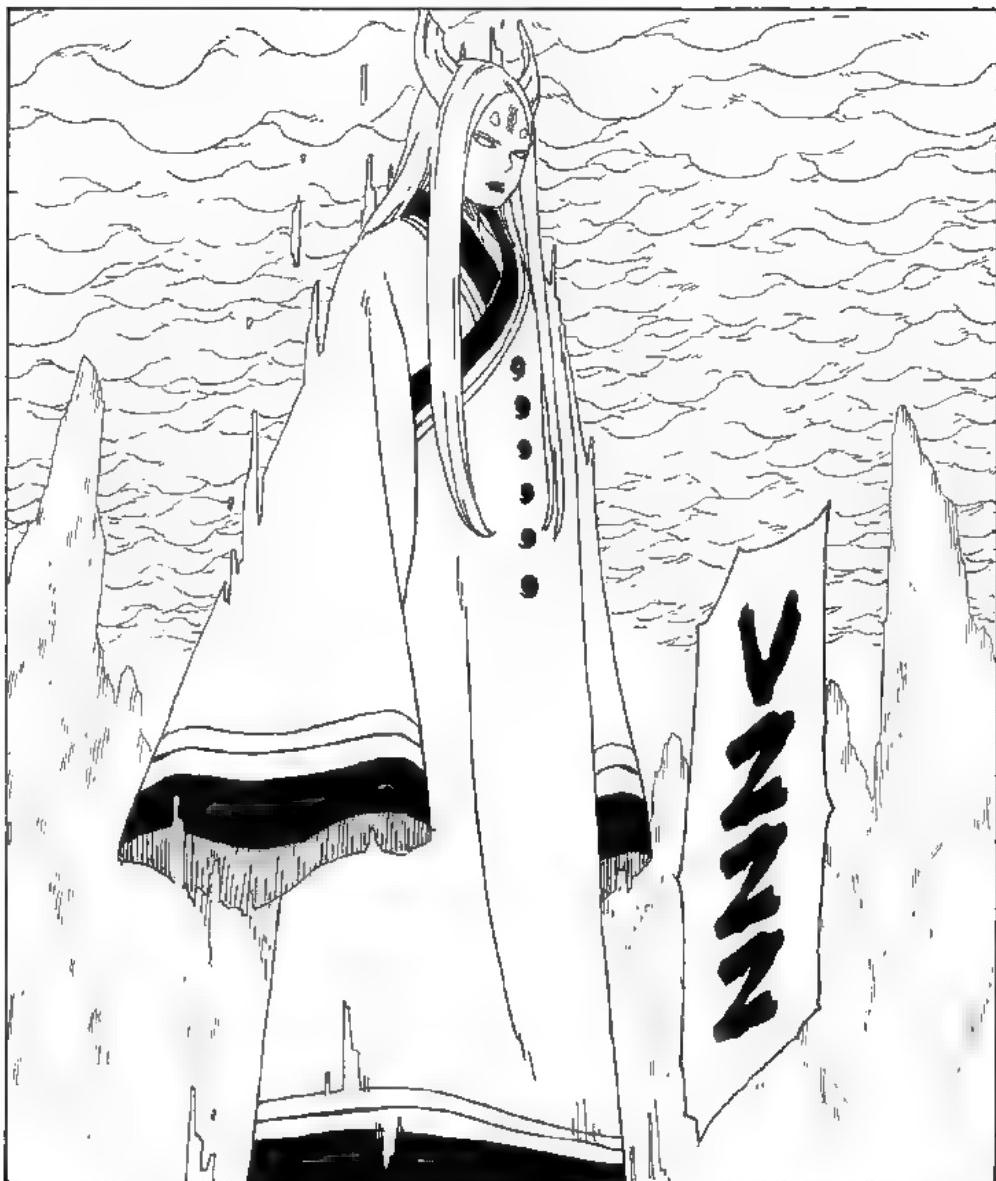


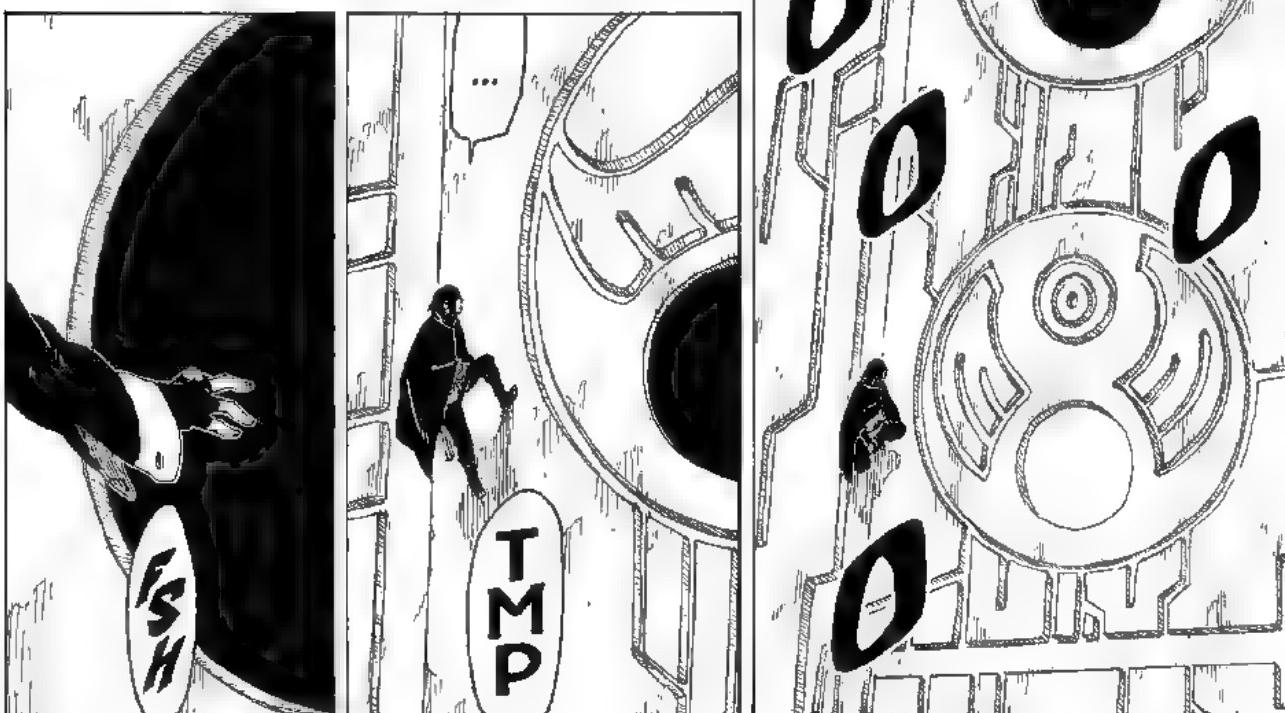
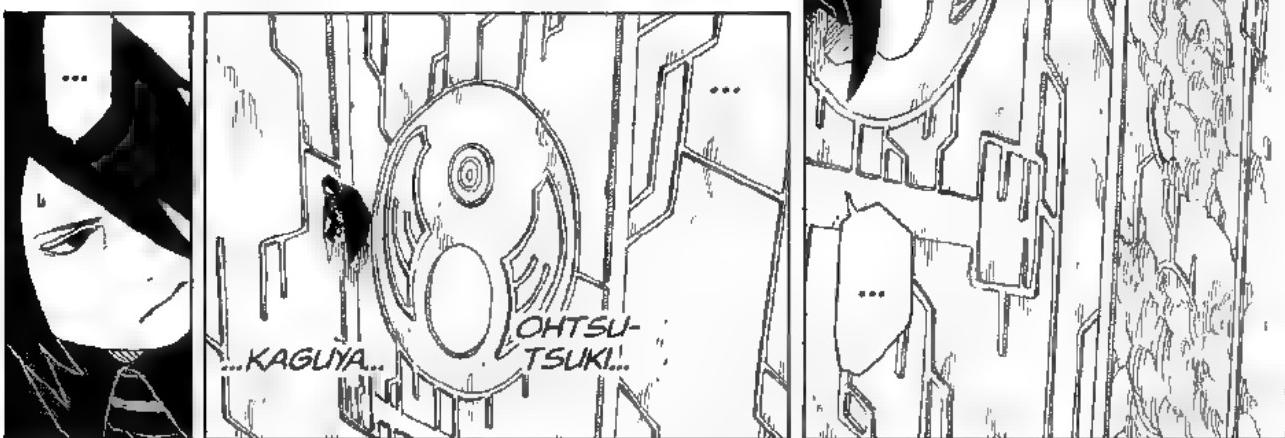


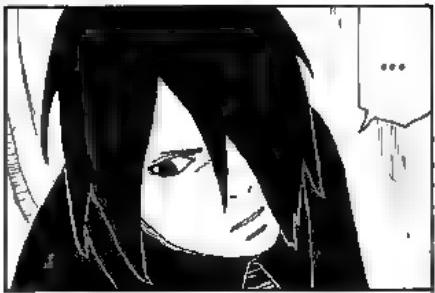












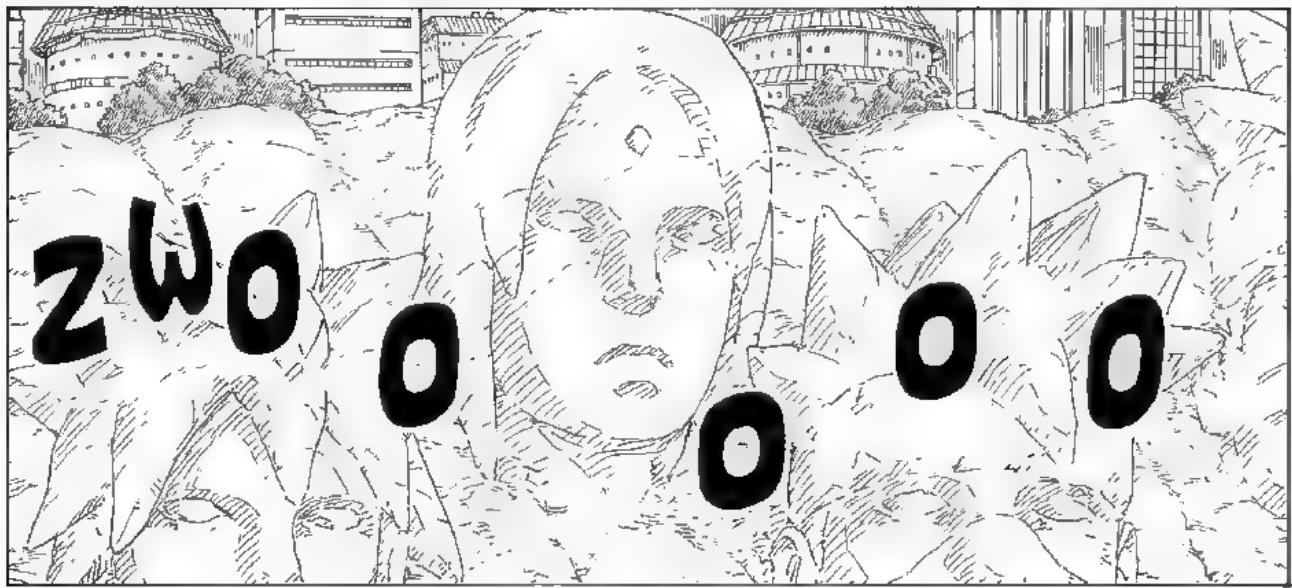












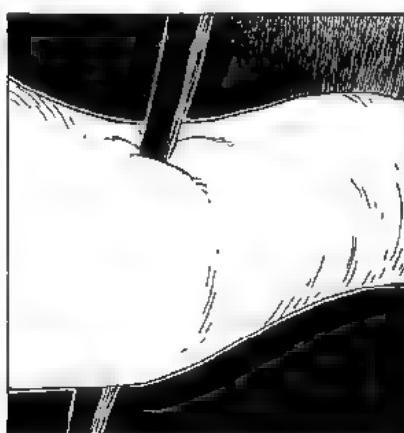
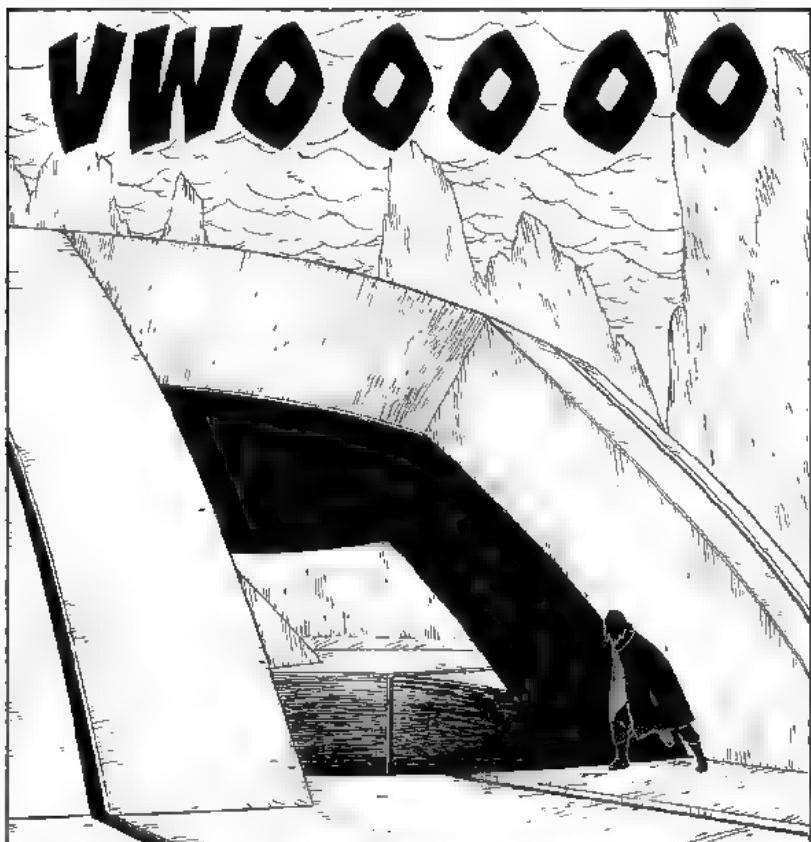
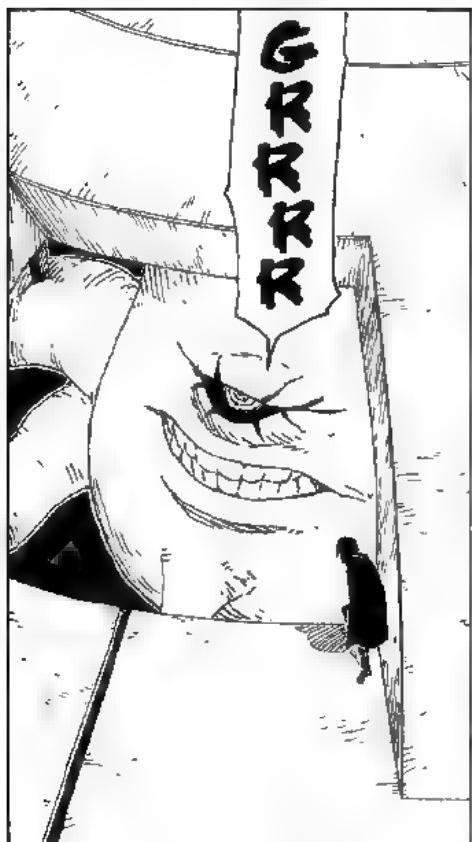


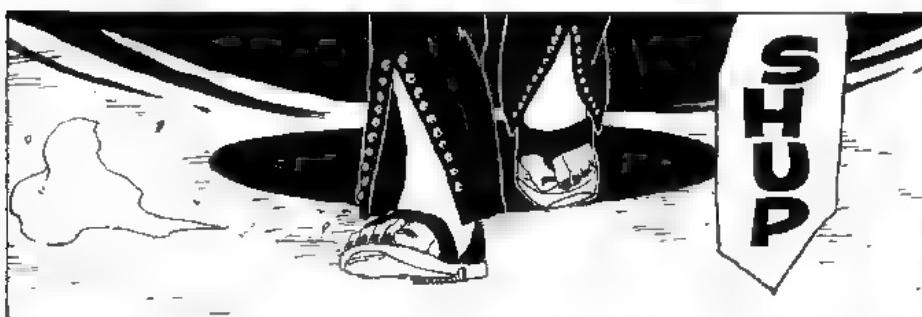
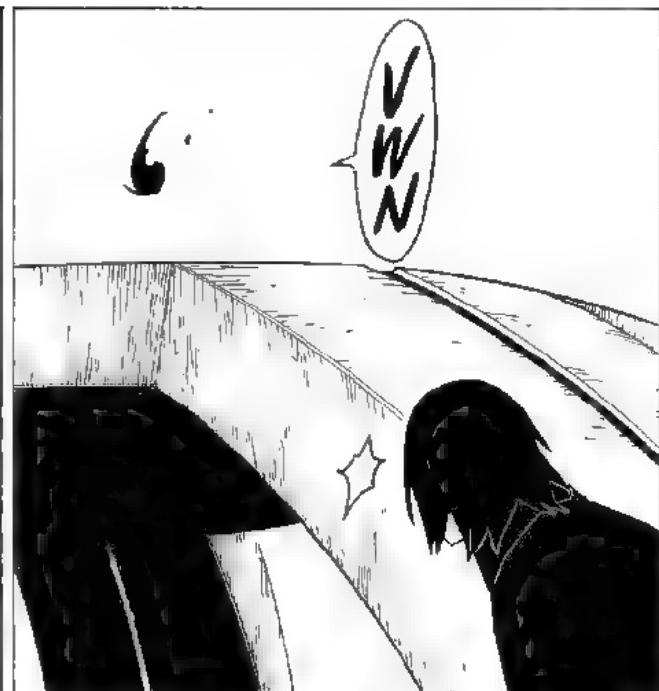


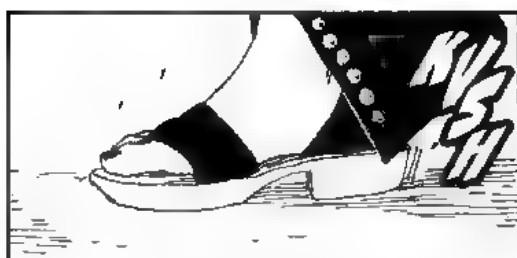
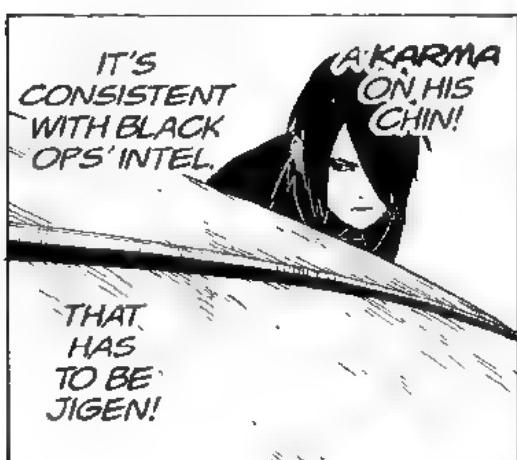
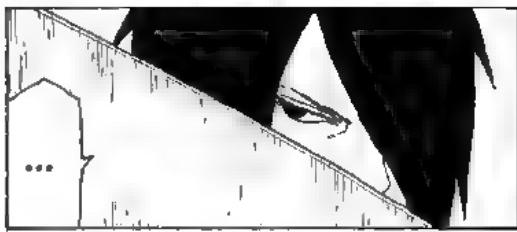


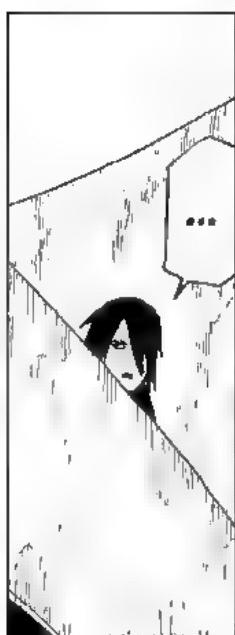
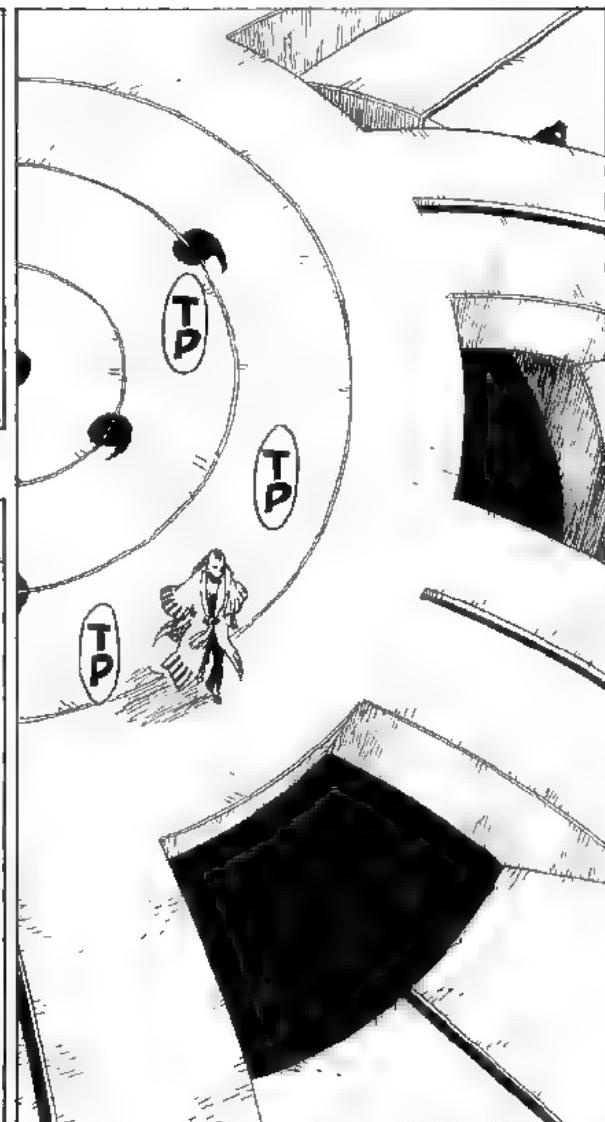
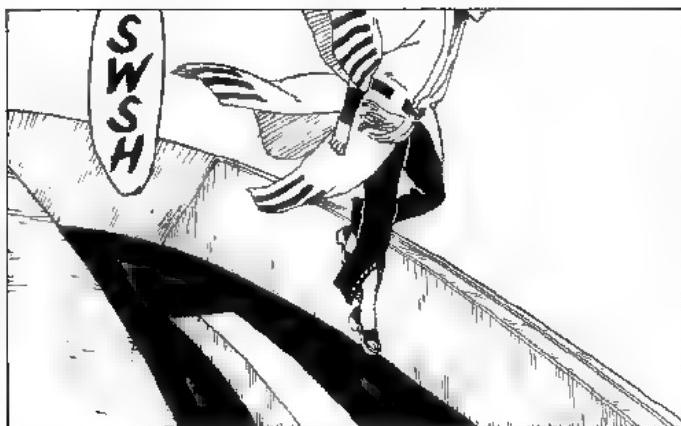




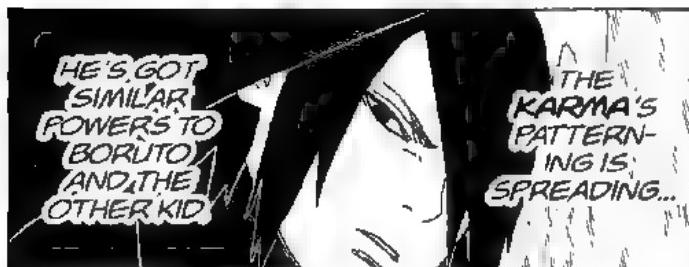
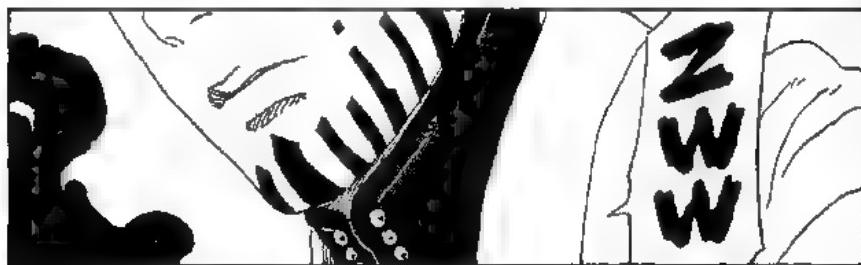


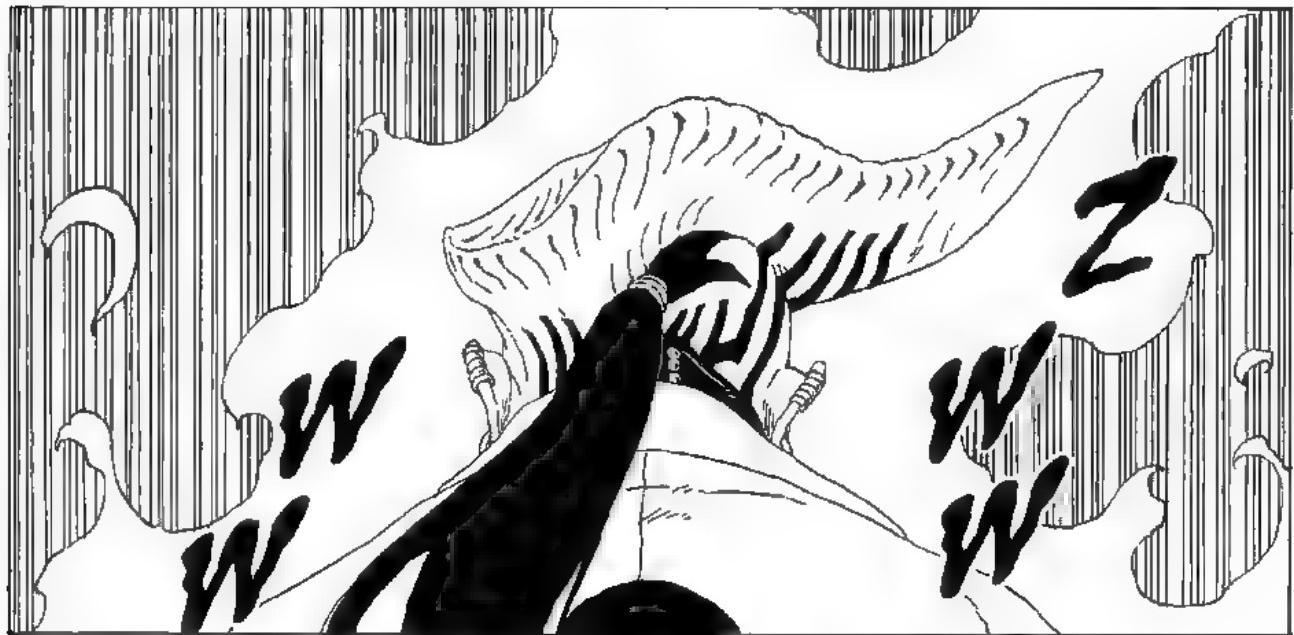












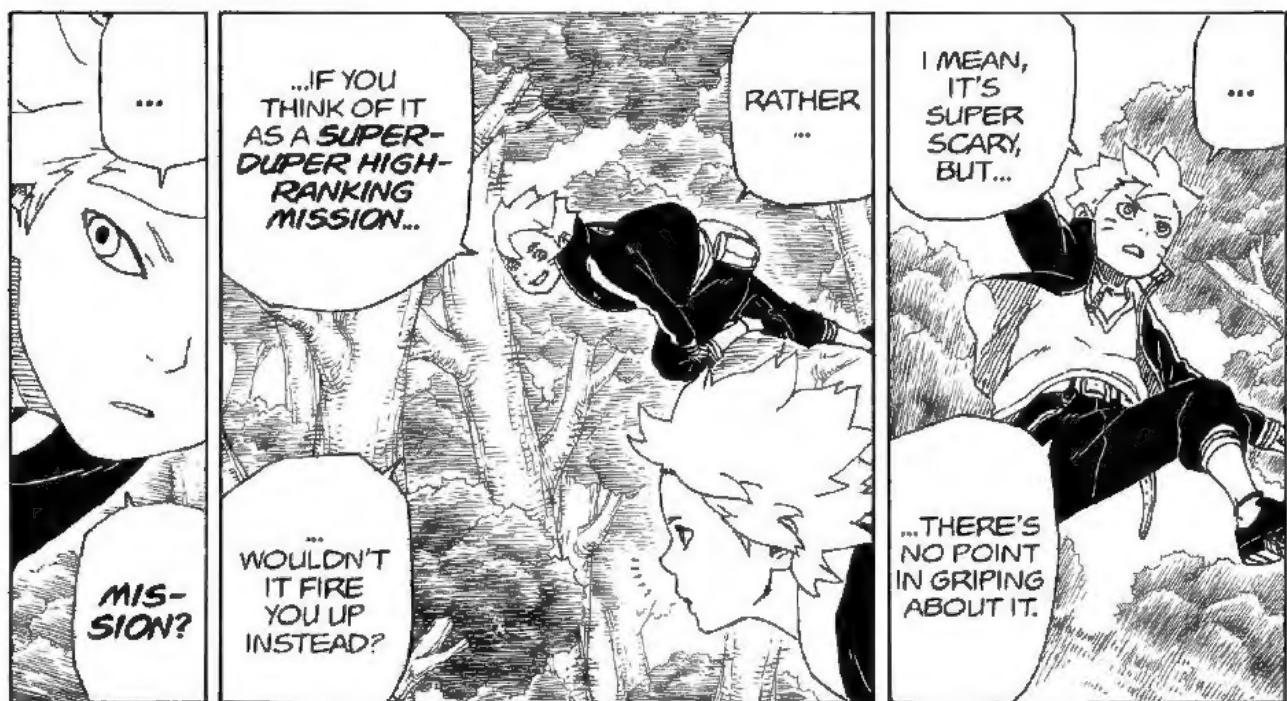


THIS MIGHT
BE A FAR
WORSE
SITUATION
THAN I
FEARED...



PERHAPS
I'LL GO PAY
A VISIT...







The Complexification of Organizational Structure

It could be said that the discernment of a Village's organizational structure by outsiders is the biggest danger to the institution of ninja. So long as ninja remain a group of specialists, their numbers cannot be easily replenished. A Village's greatest assets are its ninja. For example, the collapse of the Uchiha Clan, a professional occupation group, is still having negative consequences on Konoha Village many years later. Hence, it is difficult to comprehend the institution of ninja from the outside. The reason why various terms such as Division, Section, and Clan are used, and why it is not instantly apparent which is higher in rank than another, is to disallow spies who have infiltrated from other nations to glean the organizational structure; and furthermore to not make it obvious to ninja on the inside either. This is because if insiders find out, confession, collusion and betrayal become possible. However, it is clear, even without needing to look at Danzo and the Uchiha Clan, or Katasuke's rampage, that this begets a hotbed of secretiveness. An institution always makes its own existence its top objective. This is especially true of a secret organization.



Then again, profit alone will lead to instant betrayal. So long as full freedom of information is not possible, the troubles of the ninja will be everlasting.

Shinobi Hiden Column 4: Shinobi and Their Bureaucratic Institution

An institution requires a vast support organization to maintain itself. By and large, five bureaucrats per one combatant is regarded as the rule, and the larger in scale and more sophisticated an institution is, the less it can be avoided. Ninja are no exception. They need people who will pay their wages, people in charge of their rearward supply trains, people who mobilize their weapons and ninja tools, people who maintain the Village and training facilities, staff such as medic ninja and educator ninja, etc. In general, it is said that for every one ninja on the frontline like Boruto, at least five bureaucrats are necessary. The trouble lies in where to position such bureaucrats in the institution, these ninja whose status within the organization should have already been decided based on their competency as a ninja and merits as a covert operative. In many Villages, alienation of the entire institution from the essence of being ninja is avoided by specially promoting ninja who possess above average talent as elders while still young, in an elitist manner.

However, this intrinsically does not lead to burying the gap between the consciousness of those in the field and those in the rear. The reason why Gaara, who has become Kazekage, struggled to have control over his Village is solely because its bureaucratic institution was under the thumb of the old guard. Conversely, one could also point out the historical example where, in Konoha Village, the runaway Black Ops was thwarted due to the Third Hokage tightly holding the bureaucrats in check. The presence of bureaucrats does not weaken the institution, of course. Boruto and Sarada are able to fight freely because there are people supporting them. For all that, decision-making in an institution by its very nature cannot avoid being slow. That is the reason for continuously lagging behind Akatsuki, a small troop that did not require a support structure. The stability achieved by an institution's expansion, versus the expediency of the elite few. This dilemma faced by all institutions is not irrelevant to ninja as well.

